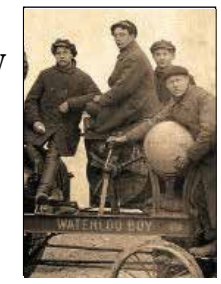
In this issue…

Touro opening medical school in Montana

page 4

EMU faculty strike succeeds

page 9



Jewish farmers in Ukraine

page 23

Washtenaw Jewish News
2939 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GREENVILLE, MI
48838
PERMIT # 338

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

October 2022 Tishrei/Cheshvan 5783 Volume XXII Number 2 FREE

To Fairyland

An excerpt from Yelena Lembersky and Galina Lembersky's memoir Like a Drop of Ink in a Downpour, reprinted with permission from Punctured Lines blog by Olga Zilberbourg

Like a Drop of Ink in a Downpour (Academic Studies Press, 2022) is a rare dual memoir co-written by Yelena Lembersky and her mother Galina. Born and raised in the USSR, following the death of her prominent painter father in 1970, Galina decides to emigrate with her young daughter and aging mother. In anticipation of her departure, Galina quits her job and becomes a refusenik. Yet, once her immigration papers go through, instead of boarding an airplane, she finds herself behind bars of a Leningrad prison on a criminal charge. Her mother has already left for the United States. Her young daughter Yelena — nicknamed Alëna in the book — is left in the care of friends, in danger of finding herself in an orphanage.

The chapter below is narrated by Yelena, 11 years old at the time of these events. We are deeply grateful to the author and publisher for permission to excerpt a chapter from this revealing and touching memoir.

Yelena will be reading from her book on Friday, October 28, at Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor.

Mama begins to sort our belongings. She needs to get special permission for the remainder of Grandfather's sketches and a roll of dark Babi Yar paintings that Grandma didn't want to take with her when she left. We have to give away much of what we own because it is banned from being taken abroad — old books, cut glass, amber, antique objects, rugs, and archival documents. Every day, friends come to say goodbye and they leave with a piece of my childhood. Aunt Kira takes away Grandma's hand-cranked Singer that we used together, I cranking the wheel, Grandma guiding the seam. Someone takes our pot-bellied black-and-white TV. The pressure cooker is heading off to a neighbor, good riddance. Our cookbook, with food stains and Grandma's handwritten notes, goes to Bélochka. All of my picture books and Grandfather's art catalogues, which he collected by saving money on food and clothes, end up in the used bookstore. Mama's favorite white-and-blue vase goes to Kiera Ivanovna, a ceramic artist, who had designed it for my grandparents back in the '60s. It held every rose and carnation ever brought to our home, and Grandfather painted it in Mama's portrait.

By and by, our home becomes empty. Suitcases huddle in the corner. Dust bunnies gather along the walls and when the draft prods at them, they slowly float from place to place. Every day, Mama goes downtown to shop for gifts for people she will meet in America — Russian wooden crafts, tins, trays, enamel brooches, and shawls with bright flowers and mottled fringes, which Russians wear on cold winter days and Americans don't, but might drape over cupboards holding some forsaken old country samovar they will have purchased at a yard sale in Brooklyn or, years later, on eBay from immigrants' descendants. She brings souvenir playing cards with pictures of harlequins, theater binoculars that are mostly useless, but she can't find, let alone afford, the military ones so valued in Rome. And a brown teddy bear, a mascot of the Moscow 1980 Olympic Games. "These are collectibles," she says emphatically. "You may get top dollar for them one day." Then she brings home a spear gun, an accident in the making.

Felix Lembersky. Portrait of the Artist's Daughter, Leningrad, 1961. Oil on canvas

"Going fishing, Mama? There is no sea in Ann Arbor."

"There are five lakes nearby — learn your geography. And the Mediterranean Sea in Italy. Okay? Fine. A saleswoman set it aside for me at Gostinniy Dvor, I couldn't say no. Maybe we'll sell it at a flea market and have some money to travel. Do you want to see Venice? Can you believe we will soon see the world?"

I don't know why Mama puts off our departure and why she goes to the center of Leningrad every day.

"Look what I found, Alëna," she says as she puts down a painted rooster and a horse on the table. "See here, this is the year of the Rooster and it's our sign in the Chinese horoscope! You take this happy guy with flowers, and I'll take that sad little horse."

"Why are you sad, Mama?"

"Who said I am sad? I am just joking, Alën'. Why do you take everything for a silver coin?"

May arrives. I want to go to the May Day parade. Mama says no. The day after, there is a trail of ripped balloons, flags, and candy wrappers trampled in the mud, where the parade had passed.

"I don't like May," Mama says. "May is unlucky. We won't travel in May."

A subpoena arrives in the mail, a request to make a witness statement for some ongoing and unspecified investigation. No signature required. Sent by the OBKhSS, the state law-enforcement agency for combating economic crimes.

"What should I do?" Mama asks Yuri.

"Get on the next flight out of the country."

"What should I be afraid of? I have never broken the law. No, I'll go and answer their questions. This might be about Kosmétika, and maybe I'll help exonerate someone."

I remember coming home from school on the day she went there, to find three men scouring our nearly empty apartment, flipping over what's left of our things — our bedsheets, pillows, our clothes, bedding, books, crafts, and suitcases. Mama stood in our tiny hallway, leaning against a door jamb, looking as if she were not present in the moment. Movers? But these men were not picking up but scattering. Burglars?

"Who are these people, Mama?"

"Go for a walk, Alëna."

One of the men overheard her and said to his crew, "We are almost done here. Let's go."

Another man walks out of the bedroom, carrying a dusty bottle of rubbing alcohol and a couple of small manicure sets that I used to trim my Olympic teddy bear's toes.

"Mama, are these men from your work?"

The men leave. She sits down, lights a cigarette, and stays silent.

"Mama! Mam' . . . Mam! Mama!"

"They took our visas."

The Mediterranean. Rome. Ann Arbor. Grandma. A cold feeling of collapse sets in. An ugly double extracts herself from my chest, turns toward me, and points her finger, cackling, "You thought you could dream of all that? A loser! You deserve nothing."

Our empty kitchen shimmers, the walls pixelate and dissolve into white. Mama stays as still as an ancient sphinx, swaddled in a quivering smoke. Her lungs contract and expand, contract and expand, taking in the poison. I keep my eyes wide open, unblinking, fixed on her. She is safe while she stays in the frame of my view. In my eyes, she grows large, the curve of her nape and shoulders become the ridge of a mountain. Then she contracts — a child, whom I failed to protect. My child-Mama. I don't yet know what is happening, except that disaster is coming. This feeling will never leave me. It will grow with the years and take over my happiest moments — our family holidays, the birth of my children.

"When will they give back our visas, Mama? Let's go right away."

"They've brought criminal charges against me. We can't leave, Alëna."

More about Yelena Lembersky on page 13 ■

Advertisers

Alex Milshteyn Real Estate..... 3
Ann Arbor District Library 16
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra....16
Ayse's Café.....16
Bank of Ann Arbor.....14
Bivouac.....16
Catholic Social Services,
Senior Resource Center..... 27
Frankel Center for Judaic Studies..12
Friends of Kathy White.....17
Giraffe Design Build 17
Hurwitz-Greene Real Estate.....12
Jewish Family Services
of Washtenaw County..... 15
Jewish Federation of Greater .
Ann Arbor.....28
Limmud Michigan 14
Modern Mechanical 2
Moonwinks Café..... 26
NOMA Real Estate Services ..... .12
Pam Sjo, The Reinhart Company. 24
Penny Seats Theater.....12
PTD Productions 26
Purple Rose Theatre Compan.y..... 2
R. D. Kleinschmidt.....26
Temple Beth Emeth..... 2
Westside Art Hop 2
Wolverine Tax & Financial..... 3
Zemyck Pottery 26

the PurpleRose theatre company

PICKLEBALL
A WORLD PREMIERE BY
JEFF DANIELS
DIRECTED BY RHIANNON RAGLAND

Sept. 30 - Dec. 17, 2022
734.433.7673 or
PurpleRoseTheatre.org

From the Editor

This October issue of the *WJN* is arranged a little different, with Yelena Lembersky's memoir on the front page. In learning more about her, I discovered the blog "Punctured Lines: Post Soviet Literature in and outside the Former Soviet Union." What a well spring! Lembersky will be reading at Beth Israel on October 28.

Clare Kinberg

This issue also includes two longer articles about the Ann Arbor Public School board elections and about the strike at Eastern Michigan University. These are both in the "doykayt" (a Yiddish term that means "hereness") category. Doykayt means taking seriously, as Jews, where we live in the Diaspora. I hope readers see the importance of this information embedded within news particular to the Jewish community.

A longtime friend of mine recently posted on Facebook about the political philosopher Hannah Arendt, that she once said that the lies of an authoritarian were designed not to persuade people, but to organize them into a mass movement. Followers would 'believe everything and nothing,' Arendt wrote, 'think that everything was possible and that nothing was true.'

The guard against this, I believe Arendt wrote, was for each person to think deeply. Arendt was an iconoclast, an independent thinker who resisted categories and revised her thinking over the years. I've been doing a lot reading lately about independent Jewish newspaper editors and publishers, finding many iconoclasts among them. Independent Jewish journalists and newspapers fascinate me.

I'd like to give shout outs Ayse's Café on their 29th anniversary and to our new advertiser, Moon Winks Café in Dixboro. What a lovely place! Good food, Hyperion coffee, and easy parking! Do you know of other small businesses who might advertise in the WJN? Let me know. ■

Heating and Cooling Specialists
A/C • Furnaces • Humidifiers • Air Cleaners
Carrier
Turn to the Experts
MODERN MECHANICAL
Alan Friedman
Serving our community since 1985
734-662-6644
www.modernmechanical.net

Temple Beth Emeth, Ann Arbor, seeks an **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** who will be a thoughtful and creative partner with our Senior Rabbi and each member of the senior staff.

TBE is a warm and welcoming community with 540 membership units. The position will begin as early as December 1, 2022; applications will be reviewed on or before October 15, 2022. For further details about applying for the position, visit our website:

Temple Beth Emeth

www.templebethemeth.org/employment.html

ANN ARBOR • WESTSIDE

ART HOP!

Oct 1st – 2nd

Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5.

Around 90 artists in Open Studios, porches, and tents.
Multiple media, fine arts and crafts, cards, gifts etc.

Map, info and artists: WESTSIDEARTHOP.COM

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

2935 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
(734) 395-4438
www.washtenawjewishnews.org
CKinbergeditor@washtenawjewishnews.org

Editor and Publisher
Clare Kinberg

Advertising Manager
Pat Cowan

Design and Layout
Dennis Platte

Staff Writers
Lonnie Sussman, Hannah Davis

Contributing Writers
Stewart Ain, Emily Eisbruch, Joy Wolfe Ensor, Shifra Epstein, Osnat Gafni-Pappas, Karla Goldman, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Hilary Greenberg, Deborah Meyers Greene, Gillian Jackson, Shira Klein, Judith Kullberg, Yelena Lembersky, Carol Lessure, Jillian Luciow, Ariella Monson, Cole Nelson, Dave Nelson, Chuck Newman, Carly Silverman, Christine Taylor

©2022 by the *Washtenaw Jewish News*. All rights reserved. No portion of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* may be reproduced without permission of the publisher.

Signed letters to the editor are welcome; they should not exceed 400 words. Letters can be emailed to the editor. Name will be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

Circulation: 4,500
Subscriptions:
Free inside Washtenaw County
$18 first-class subscription

In this issue...

Advertisers.....2
Calendar..... 22
Kosher Cuisine..... 7
Obituaries..... 25
Rabbis' Corner..... 24
Simchas and Sorrows..... 25

Second annual A2 Artoberfest Fine Art Fair

The Guild of Artists & Artisans is proud to announce the second annual A2 Artoberfest Fine Art Fair, Saturday and Sunday October 8 and 9, in downtown Ann Arbor. The event stretches across Ann Street and North Fourth Avenue from Huron into the charming Kerrytown area. This intimate and rich celebration of the arts will feature 100 jury selected artists, live entertainment, food vendors, art activities, and several adult beverage offerings including: craft cocktails from the Ann Arbor Distilling Company, Mead/Cider from Blöm Meadworks, wine from Riboli Family Wines featuring Stella Rosa, and beer from three local breweries: Rivers Edge Brewing Company, Brew Detroit, and Drafting Table Brewing Company. New this year, fairgoers who are 21 and older will be able to stroll the entire event while enjoying their beverages.

The event includes approximately 100 jury selected artists, featuring jewelry, ceramics, painting, glass, photography, fiber and more. The Guild has been helping raise community awareness, understanding and appreciation of the visual arts, while maintaining a support network for artists for more than 50 years. A2 Artoberfest will provide another opportunity for folks in and around Ann Arbor to enjoy fine art in a smaller setting than the Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair (also produced by The Guild) while also enjoying the festive spirit of fall with live entertainment, food, and beverages.

The Guild of Artists and Artisans produces a total of six fine art fairs annually and manages the Gutman Gallery, a fine art gallery and shop located within the footprint of A2 Artoberfest at 118 N. Fourth Ave. Within the gallery, fairgoers can explore even more artist-made work as well as the gallery's current exhibition, "Folklore."

A2 Artoberfest will feature many artists that participate in the Ann Arbor Art Fair such as: jeweler Julie Billups [Ada, MI]; ceramic artists Sarah & Thomas Gelsanliter — One Acre Ceramics [Milan, MI]; and last year's inaugural A2 Artoberfest featured artist and painter, Annette Poitau [Oberlin, OH].

This year's featured artwork, included on the 2022 A2 Artoberfest poster and promotional materials, is a collaborative work created by husband and wife artists Steph J. Hogan, mixed media artist, and Daniel Hogan, illustrator [Lansing, MI]. Some new artists to this year's show include: printmaker Mady Chen — Apple & Thistle [Clawson, MI]; photographer Sara Beck [Jasper, AL]; and ceramic artist Janelle Songer [Beverly, MI]. Additionally, A2 Artoberfest will include several local artists including: printmaker Jesse Richard [Ann Arbor, MI]; and jeweler Kristin Perkins [Ypsilanti, MI]. For more information and a complete list of participating artists visit A2Artoberfest.org.

Coinciding with the first weekend of Ann Arbor Spark's A2Tech360, The Guild is excited to continue its partnership with Spark featuring a new SPARK Creativity award. Voted on by fairgoers, the SPARK Creativity award, in partnership with A2Tech360, celebrates artists using technology in their artmaking process and includes artists such as: illustrator Paul King [Beulah, MI], who uses a proprietary airbrush program to hand-draw his musician portraits; jeweler Melissa Banks [Chicago, IL], who uses a PUK Pulse-Arc Micro-Welder to weld tiny stainless steel parts in the creation of her jewelry; and digital artist Court Smith [Huron, OH], who uses a variety of mapping programs and graphic design platforms to create his artwork. Fairgoers can help select this year's recipient of this award by attending the fair and voting for their favorite eligible artist online.

Sip, shop, and savor the beautiful fall weather, talented artisans, and wonderful tunes from various entertainers. Headliners for this year's event include returning performers and local fan favorites Reverie from 1–3 p.m and DJ Batz from 3:30–6:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 8. The entertainment will continue with Ann Arbor School of Rock kicking things off on Sunday, October 9 at 10:30 a.m. and indie/R&B musician Reina Mystique from 1:30–3:30 p.m. Local partners such as the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum, TeaHaus, and Mindo Chocolate will also be coming out to the streets to provide activities and creative projects for fairgoers to enjoy. ■

#1 IN YOUR TAX BRACKET

TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES, OUR OFFICE OFFERS HASSLE-FREE, NO-CONTACT METHODS TO MINIMIZE FACE-TO-FACE APPOINTMENTS. IF IT'S TIME YOU GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE, WE CAN HELP.

WOLVERINE TAX AND FINANCIAL

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT ONLINE
(734) 999-1040
WOLVERINETAX.COM
213 WEST LIBERTY STREET
SUITE 110

FOR THE HOME YOU LOVE TO LIVE IN.

Use our highly effective expertise to optimize your goal:

- Strategic, targeted marketing
- Highly effective negotiator
- Customized staging
- Compelling photography
- 21 years of leading sales performance

Call Alex at (734) 418-2400 for a dedicated commitment to the success of your next move.

ALEX MILSHTEYN, CRS, GRI, ABR
Associate Broker
(734) 417-3560
alex@alexmi.com • www.alexmi.com
2723 S. State St., Ste 130, Ann Arbor

ALEX MILSHTEYN Real Estate Associates
COLDWELL BANKER WEIR MANUEL
An exclusive affiliate of Coldwell Banker Global Luxury

This expanding Jewish university is doing some unusual things

Stewart Ain, originally for the JTA

When New York granted university status last February to what had been known until this year as Touro College, it signaled a milestone for what has become America's largest Jewish-sponsored educational institution.

Touro University, now celebrating its 50th year, has grown far beyond its roots as a small college established by Dr. Bernard Lander in 1971 to give religious Jews a place to obtain a college degree without compromising their Jewish principles while more broadly serving humanity, with a special focus on those who have been historically underserved.

Today, Touro boasts 19,000 students across 36 schools spanning five U.S. states and four countries. Previously recognized as a university in California and Nevada before New York's Board of Regents granted it university status, Touro offers everything from about half a dozen medical schools to a Jewish theological seminary and yeshiva constructed out of Jerusalem limestone.

Here are a few other things about this unique Jewish institution of higher learning that you might find surprising.

Touro is preparing to open a new medical school in Montana

Montanans long have lamented the lack of any medical schools in their state, which has the nation's third-highest suicide rate, ninth-oldest population, and ranks in the bottom

Touro is relocating its central campus to Times Square in Manhattan

For many years, Touro's headquarters were on 23rd Street in Manhattan, with larger campuses in Queens and Brooklyn. Soon, the school will have its central campus located in the heart of New York: Times Square.

Consolidated on eight floors of one of New York's iconic skyscrapers at 3 Times Square, the 300,000 square feet of space, to be renamed the Cross River campus, will house Touro's College of Pharmacy, the New York School of Career and Applied Studies, and graduate schools in business, education, Jewish studies, social work and technology. The space will be configured to accommodate not only classrooms but state-of-

An architectural rendering of the future home of Touro University at Times Square, in New York. (Touro)

10 when it comes to healthcare quality, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control, US Census Bureau and healthcare rankings sources. Eleven of the state's 56 counties don't have doctors, and nearly every county has a shortage of healthcare professionals, according to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

Touro has plans to step into this vacuum with the establishment of a College of Osteopathic Medicine in Great Falls, a city of some 60,000 people. The school plans to accept 125 students to start and grow quickly to 500 students, with preference given for in-state residents.

With studies showing that 39 percent of physicians practice in the state where they completed medical school, the new school is expected to help address Montana's physician shortage. It would also further Touro's commitment to educating a diverse student population: Montana has a high proportion of native American residents, and medical personnel at Tribal health facilities are in dire scarcity.

Touro already runs colleges of osteopathic medicine in the Las Vegas area, the Harlem neighborhood of Manhattan, the city of Middletown in upstate New York, and Vallejo, California, not far from San Francisco. Touro's MD program is at New York Medical College, the leafy Westchester County campus school that Touro acquired from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese in 2011. Today that campus includes programs in medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, speech pathology, public health, nursing, biostatistics, medical ethics and graduate-level biomedical sciences. Touro also runs several nursing and physician assistant programs around the country.

Most of Touro's students are not Jewish, but its programs reflect the university's rich Jewish character

In New York, Touro long has been known as a place where Orthodox students could obtain a college degree without compromising their religious observance. But nationwide Touro actually has more non-Jewish students than Jews. It's a sign of Touro's dual mission of serving not just the Jewish community, but the wider world.

Nevertheless, Touro's program and curricula reflect the university's Jewish character. Every Touro campus offers kosher food, classes are suspended for the Sabbath and Jewish holidays, and professional training often includes Jewish elements.

For example, at New York Medical College, religion is part and parcel of the study of medical ethics. Students learn about the role religion plays in medical decision-making, and classes recently took a field trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan where they discussed, among other things, the ethics of having an anesthesiologist participate in Israel's capture of Nazi mastermind Adolf Eichmann in Argentina in 1960.

The medical school is perhaps the only one in country in which students are required to take a course in the history of medicine that includes a segment on bioethics after the Holocaust. The school also has an endowed chair in that area of study.

the-art science and technology labs, event spaces, offices, a library, student lounges and cafes.

The building, which was originally designed as the North American headquarters for Reuters Group, will have a separate entrance and lobby for the university. More than 2,000 staff and students are expected to work and attend class there daily. The university expects to move into the new space next January.

Touro's other locations outside of New York State include campuses in Nevada, Illinois, New Mexico and California, and overseas in Jerusalem, Berlin and Moscow.

In announcing its new Times Square campus under a 30-year lease, the university reaffirmed both its commitment to New York and the importance of in-person learning after having to transition during the pandemic to online and hybrid education. Touro actually introduced its first online doctoral program in 1998, making it the first-ever regionally accredited online doctoral program open to students worldwide. That program was particularly attractive to members of the U.S. armed services, who sought to advance their education while stationed abroad.

Touro has a special focus on the underserved

Touro's dual mission to strengthen Jewish heritage while serving humanity generally, with a special focus on the historically underserved, is the idea behind not just the opening of the medical school in Montana, but also campuses in New York that serve largely Hispanic and African-American populations.

In the areas around its osteopathic medical schools near Las Vegas and San Francisco, Touro sends mobile medical units to provide free health screenings to the elderly, homeless and other underserved populations.

Touro was the brainchild of a sociologist rabbi who led the school into his 90s and is now run by a doctor who has helped make it into a health-science powerhouse

For decades, Touro was synonymous with the man who founded the university and turned it from a dream into an international institution: Bernard Lander, who designed Touro in a manner he hoped would enable observant Jews to go to college without enduring the secularizing influences of a large university campus. Students at Touro could schedule their classes around not just their religious obligations, but days spent in yeshiva. Many of Touro's students still combine their academic studies (in the evenings) with yeshiva learning (during the daytime). A men's college in Boro Park, Brooklyn, for example, caters largely to Hasidic students.

Shortly before Lander's death in 2010 at the age of 94, Touro brought in Dr. Alan Kadish as senior provost and COO. A prominent cardiologist, teacher and administrator originally from New York who had taught at University of Michigan and had a 19-year tenure at Northwestern University, Kadish soon succeeded Lander as president and set to work orchestrating a significant strategic expansion while upholding Touro's special Jewish character.

Today Touro has grown to encompass 36 programs — undergraduate as well as graduate and professional schools, including a dental school, six medical schools and a biomedical research institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Touro offers programs in accounting, psychology, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacy, nursing, education, Jewish studies, business, technology, and more.

When Touro opened its dental school at New York Medical College in 2016, it became the state's first new dental school in nearly 50 years. The third dental college in the New York City region, it offers technically advanced training in digital dentistry. Underscoring the urgent need for more dental schools, Touro's program currently attracts about 3,000 applications for its 110 slots, according to Touro officials. Touro Dental Health, the clinical teaching practice located at Touro's dental school, recently launched a teledentistry service to serve patients online with urgent dental needs.

"Our decisions on where and when to expand are strategic. We're focusing on where there's real synergy," Kadish said. "In the last two years, we've launched major projects and programs in incredibly short periods of time," he added. "We're able to launch a new medical school or physician's assistant program, for example, because we have the expertise and experience, and because people at Touro are always ready to join forces to offer the insight and input needed to make things happen. Our staff, faculty and administration are extremely dedicated to the mission."

This story was sponsored by the Touro College and University System, which supports Jewish continuity and community while serving a diverse population of over 19,000 students across 30 schools. This article was produced by JTA's native content team.. ■

JCOR helps newcomer family settle in

Deborah Meyers Greene, JCOR volunteer

With only a week's notice, JCOR (Jewish Congregations Organized for Resettlement) volunteers successfully scrambled to welcome their first newcomer family — mother, father, and adolescent daughter and son — to the United States on August 17. Their 2000+ mile journey from danger to safety was complete.

Amanda Fahim, their Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County case worker, and a JCOR volunteer translator greeted them at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. At the same time, two other JCOR volunteers stocked the shelves and refrigerator in the family's extended-stay hotel room with food and personal care items that yet other JCOR volunteers had gathered.

The family, entering with one suitcase each, responded excitedly as the two JCOR volunteers greeted them and showed them where the supplies were placed. The diminutive room's measure (160 x 320 inches, including 70 x 100 inches taken by the bathroom) didn't seem to diminish their enthusiasm. While mother and father took in the lay of the land, the boy was quiet with eyes opened wide, and the girl quickly reached for the laptop that had been donated through JCOR.

Soon, the JCOR greeters were sent off with broad smiles and even a hug or two from the family, giving Fahim and the translator the opportunity to review next steps with the family. In the days that followed, JCOR volunteers took the family out for errands, to reconnoiter their surroundings, and for a family day in the park.

And then, a quick 15 days after their arrival, the newcomers moved into their new Ann Arbor home with a full crew of JCOR volunteers on the move with them. They now reside in a comfortable three-bedroom apartment stocked with furniture and furnishings, almost all of which were donated through JCOR. The teenagers began their middle school and high school careers, respectively, in mid-September, as the family made plans to learn English as a second language, hunt for jobs, establish a family budget, and prepare for the daunting experience of their first winter.

"JCOR wants to thank everyone in the community who has provided support of our efforts," said JCOR convenor Harvey Somers.

The road ahead promises to be both exciting and challenging for the newcomers. They will have great and not-so-great days as they build their futures in America, and JCOR will walk with them through the first year of that journey.

"This family's resettlement in Washtenaw County is being greatly aided by the work of JCOR volunteers. The Co-Sponsorship Program, which JCOR is part of, allows JFS to help more people, and help them in a much more personal and comprehensive way," said Fahim. "This is exactly why JFS started and seeks to grow the program."

Others who wish to join the JCOR effort are welcome. Priority volunteer needs include Spanish language interpreters, and transportation/on-call drivers. These volunteers help with urgently needed last-minute requests, like a drive to the doctor, or maybe a ride to soccer practice, or pick up from another after-school activity.

As reality dictates, funding continues to be an important factor. JFS suggests JCOR develop a fund of $20,000 to cover its commitment to the family through the first year in the United States. "We're closing in on that goal," said Somers. "If you would like to do your part, there are multiple ways to do so."

Donations can be made on the Jewish Federation's secure Federation/JCOR donation site. And a special event is in the works.

"We look forward to seating a full house at the Jewish Community Center on Sunday, December 11, when we host our first fundraiser, an afternoon of musicianship, comprised of performances by professional artists affiliated with JCOR's collaborating congregations," said Somers. "And if you miss our classical music event, stay tuned for the klezmer and traditional folk music concert that we are planning for spring."

About JCOR: Jewish Congregations Organized for Resettlement is a participant in JFS's Co-Sponsorship Program. JCOR member congregations include Beth Israel Congregation, the Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, Jewish Cultural Society, Pardes Hannah, and Temple Beth Emeth, along with the Jewish Federation which serves as JCOR fiduciary. JCOR's goal is to help the newcomers become independent neighbors over the course of their first year. ■

JFS breaks ground on Shalom Kitchen

Christine Taylor, Jewish Family Services

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County has begun construction of a commercial kitchen in its building on State Street.

In December of 2019, with the generous help of friends and investors, JFS purchased its forever home at 2245 S. State Street. Little did we know that in a few short months our operations would be upended as we plunged into the COVID-19 pandemic. Demand for the Specialty Food Pantry (the only pantry in the county offering Kosher, Halal, and medically tailored pantry items), which was already high, multiplied as the pandemic exacerbated food insecurity issues locally. In early COVID, JFS began delivering pantry items to homes (versus in-person utilization) and began delivering meals to seniors, becoming a Meals on Wheels affiliate agency. The major changes at JFS Nutrition Services, the purchase of the building, and the supports of grantors and donors sharing JFS' passion and vision provided the perfect recipe for the JFS Shalom Kitchen project.

JFS has long been in the business of providing food to clients and community members in need, starting with a small cabinet in the executive director's office decades ago. It has been the belief of the agency that no one should go hungry and that it is a shared responsibility to address food insecurity. Furthermore, JFS' commitment to serve all, with dignity, has necessitated custom, person-centered services. This once small cabinet evolved into a full-service food pantry featuring fresh produce and hard to acquire items and toiletries with the specific aim to target those with specialty needs. Food insecurity does not discriminate and those seeking resources should not have to compromise their health or cultural preferences.

In March of 2020, as the world locked down, the JFS pantry operations expanded dramatically. At no point during the early tumult did JFS cease operating its specialty food pantry. JFS staff worked in person as essential personnel, and navigated this new reality while the needs in the community were at an all-time high. The pantry quickly filled spaces in the newly acquired building, overflowing into boardrooms and classrooms used as nonperishable food storage and staging areas. Additionally, the local Meals on Wheels network was overwhelmed and could no longer keep up with community need. In the early weeks of COVID, JFS transitioned to contactless delivery of food, became a Meals on Wheels provider, and was able to secure kosher for Passover meals from New York City for Jewish community members in need.

The sequence of events from 2020 to the present day made clear that JFS was in a unique, and needed, position to expand nutrition capacity and construct a commercial kitchen. The pantry, even now, has outgrown the space it had previously held. The meals currently utilized are acquired from outside caterers, limiting cost control, quality assurance, and flexibility needed to create a more person-centered meal approach. Also, the experience of the pandemic has illuminated a need for snacks and semi-prepared foods.

An onsite commercial kitchen at JFS offers many opportunities to do good. The space can be used as a training venue for newly arrived refugees in need of building skills to work in a kitchen setting. A commercial space can be used as an incubator for clients who would like to sell food items. This space will also be used as a place for community members to come together as volunteers to tackle food insecurity. Food has always been a great source of connection.

JFS began construction on the commercial kitchen, named Shalom Kitchen and made possible in large part by the generosity of one anonymous donor, during the summer of 2022. The project is anticipated to be completed by late fall. None of this would be possible without the support of several donors and grant funders. Key supporters include the Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation, McCalla Trust, a federal earmark, and a variety of individual contributors. And, there are still ways for the community to help:

Financial contributions to the kitchen and JFS Nutrition Services are still needed, contact mgoodson@jfsannarbor.org to learn about opportunities. JFS Nutrition Services is always looking for volunteer support, especially drivers to deliver meals (and a friendly greeting) to seniors. Please contact volunteer@jfsannarbor.org to get involved. ■

Please help JFS set up households by donating to support our refugee families

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

We are very grateful to the community for supporting the Resettlement Program through donations of household goods and supplies. Patty Benson volunteers as the in-kind donation coordinator and works alongside a team of dedicated volunteers to collect and stage household supplies for families. JFS is very grateful to have partnered with Tyner Furniture. The warehouse space which they have made available for our use enables us to store all supplies needed to prepare for move-ins.
"It's challenging but rewarding work," says Benson. "I am honored to have met so many wonderful community members who make donations to the program, help organize supplies, move furniture and household goods into homes, and help to welcome families. The families we can help have gone through more than we could ever imagine, and it is so gratifying and humbling to meet them and be able to provide support."
JFS is running low on a number of household goods. Please consider making donations to help create a home for refugee families.

URGENT Resettlement Needs:

Gift cards to Target, Meijer, Kroger
Baby items: safety kit, gender neutral blankets, pack & play sheets, gender neutral onesies, newborn diapers, size 1 diapers, and baby essentials kits (shampoo, body wash, diaper cream, etc.)
Floor and table lamps, end and coffee tables, upright vacuum cleaners, countertop microwaves
New twin and queen-sized bedding (sheets, comforters)
New bath and hand towels
Personal care supplies: shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, hairbrushes and combs, deodorant, shaving supplies, hand and bath soap, body lotion, sanitary napkins
Larger sized pots and pans in good condition
Dish sets in sets of 4 or more in good condition
Sharp knife sets for food preparation
School supplies: notebooks (both college and wide), folders, highlighters, lunch boxes, calculators, pencils

Household goods and personal care supplies: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054fafa822a0fb6-refugee
Furniture needs: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054fafa822a0fb6-refugee1

In addition to your sign up, please email Patty Benson (pbenson@comcast.net) to make arrangements to drop off items to our offsite storage area (details to be provided) or to arrange a pick up. Please do not drop off items to JFS, but rather contact Patty to make arrangements
.

Thank you for your support! ■

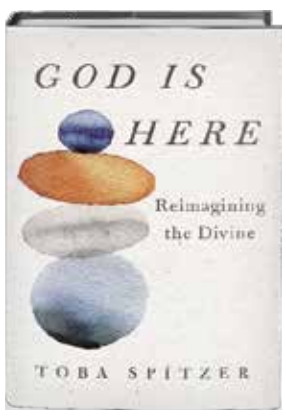
Cantor Annie Rose commences 13th season of her Spirituality Book Club

Cantor Annie Rose has shared the dates and titles for the 13th season of Spirituality Book Club. The book club meets September through April (except January) on second Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (Zoom only) and second Thursdays at noon (planning on in-person and on Zoom — to be determined monthly)

Cantor Annie has chosen four books for this year, each of the first three to be discussed over a two-month period, and the last, which is shorter, will be discussed in one month. "Each of the four authors writes compellingly on faith, doubt, and our ever-evolving understanding of religion and the nature of God," writes Cantor Annie, "and each book differs in format."

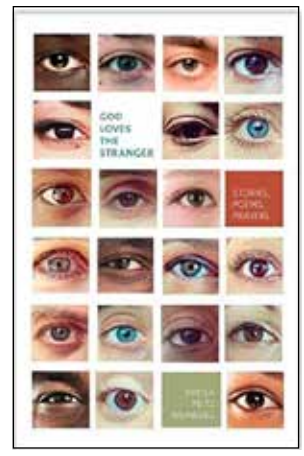
The book for September and October is Rabbi Toba Spitzer's God Is Here: Reimagining the Divine.

From God is Here: In a wonderful rabbinic commentary on God speaking at Sinai, the early rabbis taught that every Israelite received the divine Voice "according to their strength." Whatever their age or gender or experience, each person received the Voice according to their personal ability or capacity. This teaching suggests that the Voice at Sinai could have overwhelmed those who experienced It — yet this did not happen. Each person was able to channel what they needed to receive in such a way that the Voice became life-sustaining instead of life-threatening.



Rabbi Sheila Pelz Weinberg's book God Loves the Stranger: Stories, Poems, Prayers will be discussed in November and December.

From God Loves the Stranger [from a section on laughter]: Chelm stories often speak about the strength of our ideas to keep us from seeing what is truly before us. Here is a good example. Once, while walking down the street in Chelm, a man stops another, greets him like an old friend, and embraces him with affection. "Isaac! Isaac!" the man says. "What has happened to you, Isaac? Such a long time I have not seen you. Look at yourself. How you have changed. You used to have a fine head of hair, thick like a mop. Now you have a bald head. What a change. Isaac! Isaac! What a man you were. You used to be strong like an ox with big, powerful shoulders. Look at you now, Isaac — small and shrunken, a nothing. Isaac — what a change! And your mustache, black and thick and shiny, shooting out from both sides like a sword. Ah, that was a mustache! Now, nothing but bare, pale skin. What a change! Isaac, Isaac, what has happened to you?"

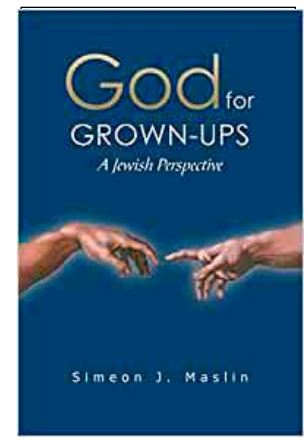


"But I am not Isaac."

"Isaac, Isaac, so you have changed your name as well!"

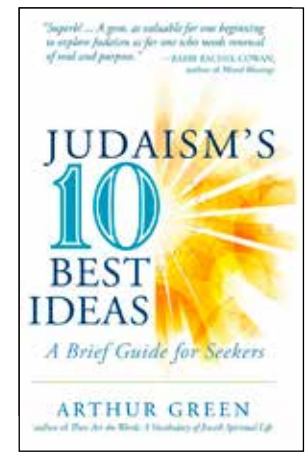
The February and March book will be God for Grownups: A Jewish Perspective by Rabbi Simeon J. Maslin

From God for Grownups: The greatest — and at the same time, the most terrifying — gift that God has given to every human being as a birthright is free will. We ourselves decide whether to be good or evil, and God will not take that gift away from us because it is the most essential ingredient of our humanness. It is free will that makes us capable of our partnership with God. Without it, we could not be creative partners with God. Without free will, we would be mere playthings, marionettes dangling from God's strings.



And finally in April the book will be Rabbi Arthur Green's Judaism's Best 10 Ideas: A Brief Guide for Seekers.

From Judaism's 10 Best Ideas: The only value of monotheism is to make you realize that all beings, every creature — and that means the rock and the blade of grass as well as your pet lizard and your annoying neighbor next door — are all one in origin. You come from the same place. You were created in the same great act of love, God bestowing God's own grace on every creature that would ever come to be. Therefore — and this is the key line, the only one that really counts — treat them that way! They are all God's creatures, just as you are. They exist only because of the divine presence, the same divine presence that makes you exist. Get to know them! Get to love them! Discover the unique divine gift within each of them as well as the common bond of existence that draws you all together. Live in amazement at the divine light strewn throughout the world. That's what it means to be a religious human being. Even if you do not take the story of creation literally — and I, for one, do not — seeing this amazement and wonder in all of existence is the beginning point of faith.



For more information on the Spirituality Book Club, write to Cantor Annie Rose, cantorannie@gmail.com. ■

TBE events in October

Events and services are both in-person and/or virtual. Please see www.templebethemeth.org for full details, locations information, and links.

Tot Shabbat Service & Dinner
Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
Join Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut to celebrate Shabbat with fun activities, stories, songs, and age appropriate learning for children ages 0–5.

Shabbat Service
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Shabbat service
Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Weekday morning blessings
Daily at 9:15 a.m.
Join Rabbi Whinston each morning for a short service of song, poetry, and meditation.

Daily afternoon blessings
Mondays through Thursdays at 3 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut each afternoon for an intimate short service.

Women's Torah study
Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut in an in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion. This year, the group will focus on exploring passages that have informed rituals of modern Jewish life.

Twenty-five-minute mindfulness with Jewish spiritual director Linda Greene
Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Zoom room opens at 8:15 a.m. for optional check-in. Blessing and intention setting 8:30–8:35 a.m. Meditate 8:35–9 a.m. Start your day centered and connected.

Talmud Tuesdays with Rabbi Alter
Tuesdays at 11 a.m. or 8 p.m.
Both meetings discuss the same material. Join Rabbi Alter to discover the Talmud, the formative collection of stories and discussions that defined the post-Temple Judaism that continues today! Together, explore the foundations of our contemporary Jewish ethics, beliefs, and practices, as well as some tremendous tales about our ancient rabbis! Join anytime! All materials are provided*. (*It is recommended that you read *If All the Seas Were Ink* by Ilana Kurshan, but it's not required or expected.)

Jewish Prayer: Finding Our Way into the History, Meaning, and Spirituality of our Worship Service
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m.
Both meetings discuss the same material. Join Rabbi Whinston for an ongoing exploration of the individual prayers that constitute the majority of our worship, from Shabbat to High Holy Days.

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club with Cantor Hayut
Thursdays at 11 a.m.
Join Cantor Hayut to read and discuss books of Jewish interest a few chapters at a time. This year, the book group will be reading primarily, although not exclusively, works by Israeli authors. For more information or questions, please contact Cantor Hayut.

Back Door Food Pantry
Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner
Thursdays at 5 p.m.
Join Claire Weiner for a 40-minute meditation session

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Whinston
Fridays at 12 p.m.
Bring your lunch and learn with Rabbi Whinston during this informal and social gathering. We explore different ideas throughout the year with participants guiding our subjects. Join us under the tent at TBE.

Shabbat morning Torah study
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.
Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston.

Spirituality Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose
Tuesday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, October 13, at 12 p.m.

Bereavement Group
Tuesday, October 18, at 4 p.m.
For women who have lost a life partner.

Women Aging With Attitude
Thursday, October 20, at 1 p.m.
A group approach to embracing life's transitions.

Aging Solo
Thursday, October 20, at 4 p.m.
Join us for discussion, support, and snacks at the Jewish Community Center. ■

For Sukkot: Just stuff it

Lonnie Sussman, special to the WJN

October is usually a great weather month in Michigan. We really begin to feel the change of seasons with cooler weather but still have lots of sunshine and plenty of outdoor activities. It is a delight celebrating Sukkot in the sukkah, especially when the weather is also delightful. Of course, there are years when that isn't true, like the year we had a snowstorm that collapsed the top of our sukkah.

Whether there is snow, rain, or beautiful sunshine, it's still the end of the summer gardening season so I look to the fall harvest for planning meals with squash, peppers, cabbage, and root vegetables. They can be cooked in many ways, but I love stuffing the squash or cabbage and that's why I used the title "Just stuff it" for this month's column. Some of these recipes are easy but take more time to prepare so I only make them for Sukkot. We also make a large pot of soup, preferably Curried Squash Soup or Mushroom Barley Soup, for the nippier temperatures.

Whatever you make I hope you will try one of these versions of the stuffed peppers or any of these other recipes or get an invitation to someone's sukkah who is making them.

Stuffed Peppers

Cooking in Israel by Orly Ziv

Serves 8

#1 Stuffed Peppers with Rice

Use 8 peppers of assorted colors.

Filling
- 1 cup rice, rinsed and soaked in luke-warm water for 20 minutes
- (Alternate stuffing for rice could be 1 cup of cooked lentils)
- 2 tbs olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- Salt and pepper
- ½ cup chopped parsley
- 1 tsp Ras-el Hanout (find at By the Pound or specialty markets)
- ½ cup pine nuts (toasted and optional)

Sauce
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 cup beer or white wine
- 2 tbs sugar
- Salt and pepper
- 1 tbs sweet paprika
- ½ tbs hot paprika (optional)

Cut the tops off the peppers and take out seeds. Save the tops. Heat the olive oil and sauté the onions until they are translucent. Add the rice and salt and pepper and continue cooking for a few more minutes. Then remove from the heat and add the parsley and pine nuts. Fill the peppers with the rice mixture and arrange in a large pot. Mix the sauce ingredients together and pour over the peppers to cover. Top the peppers with the caps. Cover and cook over low heat for about an hour. I usually do this in a baking dish and put in an oven at 375 degrees for about 40 minutes. Check to make sure the rice is cooked.

#2 Stuffed Peppers with Cheese

Cooking in Israel, by Orly Ziv

Serves 6–8 as side dish or salad
- 8 long sweet peppers
- 9 oz ricotta cheese
- 3½ oz feta cheese
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tbs olive oil, plus more for drizzling on the top when you serve them
- 1 to 2 tbs breadcrumbs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Arrange the peppers in a baking dish and roast them until they are charred. Put in a bowl and cover until they are cool enough to handle. Remove the skin and cut a slit down the middle so you can remove the seeds. Mix the cheeses and egg with the olive oil and breadcrumbs and spoon it into the peppers. Drizzle with a little more olive oil and bake for about 30–40 minutes until the cheese is bubbly.

Persian Rice and Fruit Stuffing

The Jewish Holiday Kitchen by Joan Nathan

This is enough stuffing for a 12–14 pounds

turkey, or several whole chickens or a wonderful side dish.
- 1 cup uncooked long grain rice
- 1 tbs vegetable oil
- 3 chopped onions
- ¼ cup each of sliced dried prunes and sliced dried apricots
- ¼ cup chopped parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp turmeric
- 1 cup water

Rinse and soak the rice in hot water for 30 minutes. Then drain and saute with the onions in the vegetable oil for a few minutes, until the onions turn golden brown. Next, add the prunes and apricots, parsley, salt and pepper, cinnamon, turmeric, and water. Simmer for about 5 minutes. Then you can stuff the turkey or chickens and roast in the oven. If you want to do this as a side dish in a separate baking pan or on the stove, check to see if you need more water. Usually, the ratio of rice to water is 1 ½ cups water to 1 cup rice. Cover the pot and cook for the same amount of time the rice usually takes to cook.

Koshersoul Collards

Koshersoul by Michael Twitty

Serves 8

Here's a great fall vegetable that is heartier than spinach and very versatile. Michael Twitty is a James Beard award winning chef whose first book, *The Cooking Gene*, introduced him to a wider world of home cooks. This book describes his life as a Jewish/Black/Gay chef and how he honors traditions in his cooking. We grow collards and usually just lightly braise or saute them, but this is another way of making them.
- ¼ cup canola oil (or schmaltz, ie. chicken fat)
- 1 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 1 long red cayenne pepper (or another less spicy pepper) sliced into thin rings
- 1 tsp crushed garlic
- 1 tsp crushed ginger
- 1 tbs pareve kosher "chicken" consommé powder
- 1 tsp Kitchen Pepper (see below for the recipe or just use black pepper)
- 4 pounds collard greens, stemmed, trimmed, and cut into long, thin strips
- 3 cups vegetable stock
- 2 tbs lime juice (I'm using bottled as it would take too many limes and too much time to get this amount squeezed)
- 2 tsp coconut sugar (I'm using regular sugar)
- 1 tsp smoked paprika

Kitchen Pepper
- 1 tsp coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 tsp ground white pepper
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1 tsp ground clove
- 1 tsp ground mace (a touch of mace in squash soup is awesome)
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground allspice
- 1 tsp ground ginger

Mix all together and store in a cool, dry place. Keeps for 6 months.

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat for 1 minute, toss in the onion slices, and when they begin to sweat add the peppers, garlic, ginger, consommé powder, and Kitchen Pepper and slowly sweat on low heat for about 10 minutes. Stir occasionally.

Raise the heat to medium-high and add the thin strips of collard greens by the handful, stirring as needed. With each batch of 3 handfuls, cook them for about 5 minutes, then add the next handfuls. When they are all incorporated add the vegetable stock, bring to a boil, and then lower the heat to a slow bubble. Add the lime juice, sugar and smoked paprika. Cover and simmer on low for about 45 minutes. Remove the collards with a slotted spoon and serve over rice.

Yogurt Pound Cake with Cardamom-Lemon Syrup

Shaya by Alon Shaya

Yields one very large cake. Here is another cookbook/memoir that I'm reading. The author was born in Israel and raised in the U.S. and highly influenced by cooking with his Savta (grandmother) when she came from Israel to visit. I make many zucchini breads with the giant squash from our garden for Sukkot, but this year I'm making this cake.
- 2 sticks unsalted butter, softened (plus a bit more for the pan)
- 3 ½ cups cake flour (*cake flour* isn't regular flour), plus a little more to dust the pan
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp Kosher salt (Alon always recommends Morton Kosher Salt — apparently, he writes, the flakes of salt are larger than other brands of Kosher salt)
- 3 ½ cups sugar, divided
- 1 lemon
- 1 cup full-fat Greek yogurt, room temperature, plus more for serving
- 4 eggs
- 6 egg yolks (save the whites for another use)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup water
- ¼ cup virgin olive oil, plus more for serving
- 8 cardamom pods, crushed
- 2 cups blackberries, halved

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Generously grease and flour a Bundt or tube pan. Sift the cake flour and combine it with the baking powder and salt. Add 2 ½ cups sugar to a large mixing bowl. Grate the zest of the lemon and rub all the zest into the sugar and reserve half of the lemon for the cake soak.

Add the butter and the yogurt to the mixing bowl and cram everything with an electric mixer or the paddle attachment of a stand mixer. You will need to mix for about 5 minutes to get the mixture to be light in color with plenty of air in it. Now add the eggs and yolks one at a time, mixing between the additions, then add the vanilla. The batter will look "broken and curdled" but it's okay. Gradually add the flour mixture and beat on low until just incorporated. Scape the batter into the prepared pan. Lift the pan a few inches off the counter and let it drop evenly a few times to get rid of any air bubbles in the batter. Bake on the center rack for 50–60 minutes, rotating the pan once, after 30 minutes. The cake is ready when a knife comes out clean.

While the cake bakes, make the soak. Combine the remaining cup of sugar with the water and olive oil in a saucepan. Squeeze the lemon juice in and drop in the ½ lemon with the cardamom pods. Bring the mixture to a simmer, then cover and remove from the heat until the cake is ready. (The oil and water will stay separate, which is fine). Allow the cake to cool for about 10 minutes, strain the syrup and discard all the solids. Use a thin knife to cut about 16 deep slits all over the cake, then gradually pour the syrup all over, ¼ cup at a time. Allow each cup to soak in before pouring the next one. Let the cake cool completely in the pan before inverting it onto a cake plate or cutting board. Serve each slice with a dollop of yogurt, a drizzle of oil and a pile of fresh berries. ■

Dr. Marcy Epstein is new AARC Beit Sefer director

Gillian Jackson and Emily Eisbruch, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC) is excited to announce that Dr. Marcy Epstein has taken the reins as Beit Sefer (religious school) director. Marcy follows Clare Kinberg, the previous director, who stepped down recently in order to focus on her work as Washtenaw Jewish News editor.

"We are grateful to Clare for the strong foundation she has created over the past several years at our Beit Sefer, and especially for her innovative programming through the pandemic. We will miss her at our school!" says AARC board co-chair Debbie Gombert. "I am absolutely delighted that Marcy will be our new director. We are looking forward to her leadership as she builds on that firm foundation."

The AARC's Beit Sefer provides innovative and engaging education for K–7th graders, focusing on Jewish values and ethics, history, diversity, prayer, and Hebrew language. Emphasizing critical inquiry and self-expression, the school uses a project-based learning approach to stimulate students' creativity and involvement in Jewish community.

Marcy Epstein has been a teacher with the Beit Sefer for many years and has a strong background in secular and Jewish education. As Beit Sefer director, Marcy has some exciting plans for the students this year.

Raised in Orthodox Hillel, Conservative Hebrew school, and Jewish Community Center life, Marcy pursued a career in literature, language, and literacy, ultimately landing back at the University of Michigan to teach a seminar on race and ethnicity and training other teachers. She trained at Bat Kol, a feminist beit midrash in Jerusalem, volunteering for Aisha, Israel's secular women's center. After teaching sixth grade and adult education at Temple Beth Emeth, she began associate publishing for *Moment Magazine* in Washington, D.C.

Marcy has served on the AARC board, administered the High Holy Days, led services and the Sukkot retreat, and most recently co-chaired the goodbye event for Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner. Her professional interests continue to be in developmental literacy, environmentalism and racial justice, Judaic art, and l'dor v'dor, a generational awareness of Jewish civilization. One of Marcy's favorite accomplishments is having designed a bejeweled tzedek collar, which she was blessed to present personally to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, z"l.

"I am looking forward to helping a whole new generation have a wonderfully enriched, happier Jewish childhood," Marcy shared. "Our Beit Sefer is a small, individualized school bursting with diversity, knowledge, and spirit. This year, we retained two terrific teachers, Aaron Jackson and Shani Samuel, and also we have expanded our staff to include heaps of Yiddishkeit and experiential learning. Shlomit Cohen will be teaching Judaic theater and art, Drake Meadow will be teaching Israeli and Eastern European dance, and Nancy and Mollie Meadow will be leading on holiday baking and cooking. We will be learning some new music in our shira circle, exploring mitzvot with our elders and with animals, and more.

"This year doubles down on both learning and well-being for our kids, with a curriculum that emphasizes our connections as Jews, our traditions with twang, and (more important to me) a loving growing community."

Marcy is very appreciative of the richness of support coming from the community. "This fall, our Jewish Educator Council hopes to bring Jewish children from many congregations together. Mental health and COVID safety remain concerns, but we plan a mature approach that both keeps our children healthy and allows them slowly to expand their places in Jewish community. Our Beit Sefer works so well in general, because of the people's hearts and ruach that are poured into it, both inside and beyond our intimate community."

Marcy hopes to continue the Beit Sefer's emphasis on earth-based, anti-racist Judaism, as well as deepening our children's connections and skills to avodah (prayer), Torah, and mitzvah (deeds and action). This year's Beit Sefer will continue to explore the Jewish world through immersion at the Farm on Jennings (a beautiful homestead owned and run by AARC member Carole Caplan-Sosin) and outdoors at the JCC as much as weather permits. The children will be developing their Hebrew skills along with an exciting program of holiday festivals, Jewish arts and cooking, midrash and ethics, and most of all, connection to each other and our community.

The AARC is a welcoming Jewish community with musical, participatory and egalitarian services, in addition to an outstanding Beit Sefer. Please visit the AARC website at www.aarecon.org. You can contact Marcy Epstein to discuss the Beit Sefer, at beitsefer@aarecon.org.■

AARC welcomes guest rabbi to guide participatory High Holidays

Dave Nelson, AARC

For High Holidays this year the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation has welcomed a guest service leader, Rabbi Debra Rappaport. Rabbi Rappaport has 14 years of experience leading High Holidays services with her two prior congregations, most recently with Congregation Shir Tikvah in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

It is challenging to "parachute in" to a congregation just for High Holidays and create a service that meaningfully connects with the community. But as AARC's High Holiday services coordinator, Deb Kraus, explained, "One of the many things [Rabbi Rappaport] brings to us is a desire to empower us to participate broadly — through music, poetry, storytelling, and of course, Torah and haftarah readings."

As opposed to relying on readings, teachings, and musical choices made primarily by ordained service leaders, Rabbi Rappaport is working with teams of AARC congregants to surface and share "what's real, what's relevant, [and] what's alive in this moment" for our entire community. These teams include a "Musical Team" (in lieu of bringing in a cantorial soloist) and a "Kavanot team" (to present readings and teachings throughout each service).

"The tradition has stayed alive as long as it has," Rabbi Rappaport explains, "because it continues to provide insight and points of meaning and connection to the dilemmas of the world that are alive and real today, as well as to the enduring questions of what it means to live as a human." A service featuring many voices drawn from throughout the congregation promises to offer many perspectives and insights into the ongoing and evolving Jewish experience.

Rabbi Rappaport reminds us that, "Jewish life is made up of Jews. … As Reconstructionist trained rabbis, our job is about connecting people, helping build community, embracing the meaningful rituals and teachings, and inspiring people toward compassion and justice. It's really important to me to give touch points for everyone, from those who have a really traditional Jewish background to people who are not Jewish and are exploring what it will be like, so it is accessible and meaningful for everyone."

Accessibility is likewise central to AARC High Holiday services. As in years past, these services are free and open to all, with both ticketless in-person options and streaming via Zoom. The Kol Nidre service on October 4 begins at 6:45 p.m., and the Yom Kippur service at 10 a.m. on October 5. Both in-person events will be held at the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. For details, visit_https://aarecon.org/high-holidays/

Throughout this year the AARC is continuing to hold both lay-led services and those guided by guest and visiting rabbis (in person, as per CDC guidance, and virtually). Regular AARC services include monthly Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat and Second Saturday Morning Torah/learning services. For more information, visit aarecon.org ■

AARC events in October

For more information about Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation services or events or to receive zoom links, please email: aarcgillian@gmail.com.
Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation website: aarecon.org

Kol Nidrei, October 4, 6:45–8 p.m.
This is a hybrid service held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Yom Kippur Morning Service, October 5, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
This is a hybrid service held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Yizkor is a non-traditional service offering mourners the opportunity to share some words about the loved one who died. October 5, 5–6:30 p.m.

Community Break Fast
Our Break Fast is a catered bagel brunch. If you would like to attend, registration is required in order to make sure we have enough food! October 5, 8:15–9:15 p.m.

Second Saturday Morning Shabbat Service
October 8, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. This is a hybrid Shabbat Service led by members of our congregation at the JCC. Everyone is welcome! Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event.

AARC Book Group
Sunday, October 16, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. The AARC book group will discuss *The Secret Book of Kings* by Yochi Brandes. To participate in the October 16 AARC book group meeting, please email Greg Saltzman. gsaltzman@albion.edu

Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat.
October 28, 6:30 p.m., at the JCC and on Zoom.
This is a hybrid service led by members of our congregation. ■

EMU faculty strike victory for union

By Judith Kullberg, retired professor of Political Science, and past president of the EMU Faculty Senate and EMU-AAUP

On September 6, after weeks of negotiations between their union and the university administration had failed to produce a new contract, Eastern Michigan University professors voted overwhelmingly (91% to 9%) to leave the classrooms and head to the picket lines. Their exuberant and noisy five-day strike, which received broad support and considerable media attention, quickly broke the deadlock at the negotiating table. On September 11, representatives of the university administration and the faculty union, the Eastern Michigan University chapter of the American Association of University Professors (EMU-AAUP), signed a tentative agreement providing significant salary increases and improvements in working conditions. Having achieved their goal, the professors returned to their classes on Monday, September 12.

EMU-AAUP leaders hailed the agreement as a victory and attributed the win to the strike. In the words of Mark Higbee, professor of history and Vice President of EMU-AAUP, "By striking we achieved a very good contract. The strike successfully turned back the administration's attempt to force concessions on us and, by extension, all employee groups; any cuts we took would inevitably have been imposed on others as well."

What were the causes of this strike? Did the EMU administration in fact attempt to force concessions on its own faculty? How, exactly, did the strike break the deadlock at the table? Finally, is the tentative agreement a victory, or are the results more mixed? As a former president of EMU-AAUP (2017–20), I cannot possibly offer an objective analysis of the causes, character, and effects of the strike. However, I can provide tentative answers to these questions that draw on my institutional knowledge, the facts as I understand them, and first-hand accounts of colleagues who were at the table or on the picket lines.

A review of the events that led up to the faculty strike suggests that even before the negotiations began, the administration had little intention of bargaining in good faith. In April, representatives of EMU-AAUP and the administration agreed to begin negotiating in May. Before the first meeting was held, however, the administration informed EMU-AAUP that meetings had to be in-person and held on campus. This demand was a startling departure from the university's own rule since the start of the pandemic that all meetings be conducted remotely. Certainly, the pandemic had not ended. Community spread of COVID was still high, and the Washtenaw County Health Department was recommending that residents avoid indoor contact.

With several members of its negotiating team at high risk for infection, EMU-AAUP rejected the administration's demand. Unable to persuade the administration to conduct negotiations remotely, it filed an unfair labor practice (ULP) complaint with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC). The administration filed a counter ULP. A hearing date was set by MERC for late July. As the hearing date approached, the administration suddenly agreed to meet on July 15 in a mixed or "Hyflex" mode, giving everyone the option of participating in-person or remotely. This was an obvious compromise that could have been made months earlier.

By being inflexible on meeting modality until July 15, the administration cut the amount of time available to negotiate the new contract in half. The time constraints added greatly to the pressure on EMU-AAUP's negotiating team which had dozens of proposals on wages, benefits, and working conditions to present.

At the table, the administration employed "hardball" tactics. Matt Kirkpatrick, associate professor of English and chief negotiator for EMU-AAUP, describes the administration's negotiating team as "adversarial and contentious from the start." The administration "did not want to give an inch," and rejected many of the union's early proposals, even those that offered easy, no-cost solutions to existing problems. LaMar Stewart, associate professor of engineering, recalls how the administration team responded to EMU-AAUP's proposals with hypothetical "what if" scenarios that ate up many hours and did not result in counter proposals. When Tricia McTague, associate professor of sociology, presented a comparative analysis of EMU faculty salaries that contradicted the administration's analysis, members of the administration's negotiating team became angry and made no effort to explain the discrepancy.

The administration's reluctance to bargain resulted in deadlock over salary and benefits. EMU-AAUP presented its first economic package proposal on August 4, proposing substantial increases to salary — 7.5%, 4.5%, 4.5% over three years — to protect real wages somewhat from the current rampant inflation. The administration countered on August 11 with a proposal for very modest (2%) raises for five years along with steep increases in health insurance premiums and co-pays. The increased health care costs in the administration's proposal would have far exceeded the salary increases for many members. EMU-AAUP countered at the next session on August 14, reducing its first-year salary increase and substituted the final year wage increase with a wage reopener. Instead of returning to the table with a second economic proposal, the administration's chief negotiator, attorney Jim Greene from the firm Dykema, declared an impasse on August 17 and filed with MERC for mediation. This halted bargaining for a week while MERC appointed a mediator. The pace of the negotiation slowed even further as the MERC-appointed mediator shuttled back and forth between the two teams.

With little hope that an agreement would be reached by the August 31 expiration date, the EMU-AAUP Executive Committee called a membership meeting to consider the possibility of a strike. Just hours before that meeting on August 27, the administration finally presented its second economic offer. Instead of being an improvement, the offer was regressive, with even greater increases in health care costs. The proposal would have required a family subscribed in the primary plan to pay more than $8,000 annually for premiums, an amount far greater than a member would receive from the administration's proposed salary increases.

Aware that the administration was not negotiating in good faith and was proposing substantial increases in health care costs that exceeded those paid by other employee groups, the faculty voted to strike on September 6 and stopped working on September 7. Although a preponderant majority (91%) of the faculty supported the strike, there was much trepidation. Strikes by Michigan public employees are illegal (although in practice possible) and rumors were spreading that members would be fined or even fired if they walked out.

Once picketing began in front of Welch Hall in the early morning of Wednesday, September 7, the anxiety melted away. People marched and chanted with gusto, even joy. In response to my observation that the protest felt like a celebration, Dr. Matt Oches, EMU-AAUP organizer, responded that people were "discovering what it feels like to stand up for yourself. It feels good!" Initially, Oches provided direction, but dozens of members quickly took ownership of the strike taking on responsibility for all aspects — setting up, making signs, distributing food and water, recruiting colleagues, leading chants, contacting and speaking with the press, posting on social media, etc. The number of participants grew rapidly. Over four days at least 255 professors participated in the picketing or attended a rally at least once, and many returned repeatedly. Entire departments marched together and took group photos holding picket signs.

As knowledge of the strike spread, students, sister labor unions, community groups, and public officials came out in support of EMU-AAUP. Faculty morale was boosted by the presence of many students, including a large contingent from the marching band. The Huron Valley Area Labor Federation, an association of regional labor unions, called on its members to support the strike, and dozens from the UAW, the Michigan Nurses Association, LEO, GEO, and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) marched alongside the professors.

AFT members, organizers, and leaders played a particularly valuable role, illustrating how the recent (June 2022) affiliation of AAUP with AFT is already benefiting AAUP chapters. AFT President Randi Weingarten, national AAUP President Irene Mulvaney, and Michigan AFT President David Hecker all visited campus to show solidarity and to encourage the strikers. Among the many elected officials and candidates for office who expressed their support in social media and/or in person at rallies in front of Welch Hall were U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell, State Senator Jeff Irwin, State Representative Yousef Rabhi, Democratic nominee for State House District 32 Jimmie Wilson, Jr., Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit, and Ypsilanti City Council Member Annie Somerville.

The strike received considerable attention in the national and local media, including the Associated Press, the *Washington Post*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Education*, the *Detroit News*, *Detroit Free Press*, MLive, Michigan Radio, and the Detroit metro area television network stations. According to Alankrita Pandey, associate professor of management, news of the strike also spread rapidly through the social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and the number of EMU-AAUP's followers grew exponentially. Media reports were either neutral or noticeably pro-union. Few

Continued to page 24

Julian Levinson will lecture on "Jews through the eyes of American Christians"

Jillian Luciow, Frankel Center

This year's Padnos Public Engagement on Jewish Learning Event, to take place on November 1 at 7 p.m., will feature Dr. Julian Levinson, Professor of English and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. Levinson will present a lecture entitled "'Remnants of a Mighty Nation': Jews Through the Eyes of American Christians" at the Loosemore Auditorium at the Richard M. Devos Center on Grand Valley State University's Campus. The event will also be virtually simulcast via Zoom (registration: https://myumi.ch/DJN9M). Immediately following the lecture, at approximately 8:30 p.m., there will be a light reception in the adjacent Lubbers Exhibition Hall.

Dr. Levinson prefaces his discussion:

What is it like to belong to a religious minority? For Jews in the United States, there have been countless challenges as well as unexpected benefits from living among a

Christian majority. While some individual Christians have been highly critical of Jews for their beliefs and practices, others have been deeply respectful of Jews for being the original "chosen people," for preserving the Hebrew language, and for maintaining traditions going back to the Bible. This talk will focus on the ways Jews were perceived in nineteenth-century America, when the origins of present-day Christian-Jewish relations were established. It will trace the formation of views that are still prevalent today, including the evangelical fascination with Israel. It will also consider how Jews have shaped their own identities in relation to the broader Christian environment.

Julian Levinson has taught at the University of Michigan since 2000, and he holds the Samuel Shetzer Chair in American Jewish studies. He offers a range of classes, including "American Jewish Literature," "Jewish Storytelling," "The Bible as Literature," and "Literature of the Holocaust." He is the author of Exiles on Main Street: Jewish American Writers and American Literature Culture (winner of a 2008 National Jewish Book Award), as well as articles and book chapters about modern Jewish culture and self-identity. He has also translated Flames from the Earth, a novel about the Lodz Ghetto written in Yiddish by survivor-novelist Isaiah Spiegel.

In 2020, the Stuart and Barbara Padnos Foundation provided a gift to the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies to establish the Padnos Engagement on Jewish Learning fund. The initiative facilitates annual public educational activities in Jewish Studies throughout the State of Michigan, with a focus on the western part of the state. ■

JCS kicks off Second Friday "schmooze"

The Jewish Cultural Society is kicking off a monthly Second Friday "schmooze" series featuring short talks, discussion, and informal mingling. On October 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the JCC, the first speaker in the series will be Jeffrey Halter, MD, a longtime JCS member. His topic is "Healthy Longevity," and he will be referring to the report "Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity" released by the U.S. National Academy of Medicine in June 2022. Dr. Halter is Professor Emeritus, U-M Geriatrics; and is former Chief, U-M Division of Geriatric Medicine, and Director, U-M Geriatrics Center and Institute of Gerontology. ■

Beginning a year of Jewish joy with JCLP

Karla Goldman, Director Jewish Communal Leadership Program

The students of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan inaugurated their series of public events for the 2022/23 academic year focused on the theme of Jewish Joy at JCLP's annual community welcome breakfast. Twenty-five members of the Ann Arbor Jewish community came out early on Friday, August 26, to join JCLP students in reflecting on their own experiences of and hopes for joy in the context of Jewish community even amid challenging times. It was indeed a joy to come together in person for the first time in three years to share breakfast and conversation in the outdoor space at Michigan Hillel.

All community members are invited to join JCLP students for their next public event, an Open House to be celebrated, in person, in the JCLP sukkah in the courtyard of the UM School of Social Work (1080 S. University Ave.) on Wednesday, October 12, from 5:30— pm.

Given that the festival of Sukkot is traditionally designated as the "Time of Our Joy," it is particularly appropriate this year that the theme for this year's annual JCLP Sukkot Open House will be "Harvesting Joy." The JCLP students look forward to welcoming members of Ann Arbor's Jewish community and of the School of Social Work for celebration, conversation, and seasonal fare (Conservative kosher dairy hors d'oeuvres from Amanda's Kitchen). ■

JCLP student Lydia Greenberg introduces herself to the assembled community at JCLP's annual welcome breakfast, held at Michigan Hillel on August 26.

Pardes Hannah events in October

All events are in Zoom unless otherwise noted. Please check our website https://pardeshannah.org/ for the latest information, including Zoom links, on these or any of our ongoing services, rituals, circles, and teachings or call Renee Robbins at 734-904-5459.

Kol Nidre: Tuesday October 4, 6:45–9:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur: Wednesday October 5, 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.; 2–3:15 p.m.; 4–5 p.m.; 5:30–8:05 p.m.

Full Moon Gathering (in person): Monday October 10, 7–8:30 p.m.

Shabbat Morning Services: Saturday October 15, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Rosh Chodesh Circle: Tuesday October 25, 7–8:30 p.m.

Rosh Chodesh Online Minyan Cheshvan: Wednesday October 26, 9–10:15 a.m.

Twenty-five Minute Mindfulness w/ Linda Greene, Jewish Spiritual Director (co-sponsored with Temple Beth Emeth), weekly on Tuesday 8:30–9 a.m. ■

AAOM for October

For all Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan events, please contact rabbayael@annarborminyan.org for location or with any questions.

Sunday, October 2, 8 p.m.

Join the AAOM for a teshuva workshop. We will start with a brief text study exploring how we repent in preparation for Yom Kippur. We will then work on a communal art/gardening project (very little mess!) to complete the evening.

Sunday, October 9, 9:30 a.m.
Sukkah Decorating! Children of all ages are welcome to come to an open art space to make sukkah decorations for their own sukkah. Snacks and story included.

Tuesday, October 11, 4 p.m.
Sukkah Hop: Hop around the neighborhood with the AAOM! Follow the route to several community sukkot for games, snacks and stories.

Tuesday, October 25, 8 p.m. Women's Rosh Chodesh Group

Wednesday, October 26, 12:30–1 p.m. Parsha Lunch and Learn: Explore themes of the weekly parsha. ■

AAPS school board guaranteed to change

By Carol A. Lessure

Change is coming to the board of Ann Arbor Public Schools. The past couple of years were challenging: the school board supported AAPS through the pandemic's disruptions which included staffing shortages of educators, bus drivers, and before and after care workers. Perhaps the pandemic's stresses are one reason that, of the slate of 13 community members running for the four open seats, only one is an incumbent. Therefore, at least three of the seven trustees sworn in at the start of 2023 will be brand new.

The issues and opportunities for AAPS and the board run deep. Long-standing issues include addressing disparities in student achievement and providing effective accommodations and services for students with special education needs. Several candidates are focused on newer concerns including how AAPS has handled the challenging balance between health and safety, the return to in-person learning for students especially those considered "at risk," and the growing mental health needs of students.

New trustees will also oversee AAPS budgets. The operational budget will continue to face pressure with the loss of federal COVID rescue funds (nearly $20 million in 2022) and demands for increased funding for educators and the classroom with only a modest increase projected in per-pupil funding from the state to be finalized in October. Meanwhile, the school district has a healthy capital improvement budget as such funds are allowed to be supported via local taxes. Voters have supported AAPS capital investments with the 2019 $1 billion capital bond, $200 million 10-year sinking fund millage renewed in 2017, and the $45.8 million technology millage due to expire in 2023.

About the Candidates

Of those running, three — Jeffery Lapham, Susan Ward Schmidt, and Barry Schumer — have significant experience working in Michigan public schools. Along with Lapham there are seven current AAPS parents running — Jamila James, Andrew Spencer, Leslie Wilkins, Kai Cortina, Lena Kauffman, Jacinda Townsend Gides, Rima Mohammad, and Alex Wood. Susan Baskett, the only incumbent, is a local Democratic Party leader. School board candidate Paulette Metoyer is a leader in the local Republican Party.

Jeffery Lapham is a registered nurse who currently works for AAPS as a school-based nurse practitioner in adolescent health for the Regional Alliance for Healthy Schools. He is a single parent of two AAPS students and works closely with the local AFL-CIO chapter. He seeks to close the achievement gap at AAPS, bring high quality research to inform improvements, promote a variety of post-high school options for graduates, engage rank-and-file educators in decisions, and make schools centers of community activity.

Susan Ward Schmidt has more than 35 years as an educator and served as a member and president of the school board in East Lansing. She was most recently a teacher at Scarlett Middle School and has been involved in many local and statewide efforts to promote literacy. Schmidt was deeply involved in an effort with Senator Jeff Irwin to pass state-level literacy criteria for academic achievement and promote greater support for special education students. She seeks to create a safe and equitable environment, support educators to succeed, and promote transparency and community input on the board.

Barry Schumer has served as a counselor in Michigan public schools for the past 23 years in both the Monroe Intermediate School District and Dearborn Public Schools. He is a long time Ann Arbor resident who has witnessed the increasing mental health challenges of students over the past decade that went into overdrive during the pandemic. He wants to bring his experience to the board of trustees and be a voice for teachers and protect them from politics intruding into their work.

Three candidates — Leslie Wilkins, Jamila James, and Andy Spencer — tout their PTO and volunteer service with AAPS schools and their long-standing interest in public service.

Leslie Wilkins has had two children at AAPS schools over the past 14 years and contemplated a run for school board for many years while initially getting involved as a volunteer and PTO leader at two different AAPS schools. She seeks to promote a school environment where all students can thrive through equity, emotional enrichment, and excellent educators, and has supportive statements from other AAPS parents and leaders on her website.

Jamila James has long been interested in serving on the school board and has had children at AAPS for 16 years. She ran to fill a trustee vacancy in 2019 and for election in 2020 when she narrowly lost to three other candidates. She has been involved in the Skyline High School PTO, Ann Arbor School Parents Intent on Racial Equity (AASPIRE), and serves on the Washtenaw Community Equitable Exchange Steering Committee. James seeks to promote alternative routes to careers beyond college, soft skill development, and expanding social justice in the AAPS curriculum.

Andy Spencer has been interested in public service since moving back to Michigan six years ago and has been involved as a volunteer at AAPS schools, with Rec&Ed sports teams, and the Ypsi-Arbor Little League. He is a scientist and has two children at AAPS. He lists before and after school care (which was cut last year) as well as teacher attraction and retention, equity in PTO and school funding, and reducing the days that students miss school for any reason within his platform.

Two candidates, Kai Cortina and Lena Kaufmann, are running together as candidates that emerged from a segment of the local parent population that sought to return AAPS students to in-person classes as soon as possible during the 2020–2021 school year. This group formed a nonprofit advocating for school reopenings with physician letters, media stories, and public protests. They opposed AAPS decisions to remain online with only very limited in-person learning provided during the last few months of that school year, raising money and hiring a law firm to investigate these decisions. The group was part of a successful state legislative effort in 2021 to significantly limit the ability of local Michigan school leaders to close down in-person classes due to health concerns by putting its state funding at risk.

Kai Cortina has been an AAPS parent for the past 13 years with two children attending AAPS schools. As a Professor of Psychology specializing in education at University of Michigan, Cortina recently published a study on the detrimental impact of school closures on learning, particularly for low-income students. He and the Ann Arbor Reasonable Return organization point out that sustained school closures coincide with the rapid rise of youth mental health problems and teacher burnout.

Lena Kaufmann, co-founder of Ann Arbor Reasonable Return, has three students enrolled in AAPS this fall. She is dedicated to assuring that in-person learning continues at AAPS and her stated objectives are to push for transparency, openness, and clear communication to parents and to represent their interests on the board.

Alex Wood, an AAPS parent and alumnus, is concerned with the fact that the return to school has left the immunosuppressed behind due to the return to in-person school environments without safety protocols such as universal masking. She has three children who have remained at home during the past two school years due to such health concerns. Wood has served on the board of trustees at Temple Beth Emeth and has been involved in many local nonprofits.

Jacinda Townsend Gides and Rima Mohammed are pooling resources with Lapham to run as "community-centered" candidates committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, and fighting against racism.

Jacinda Townsend Gides recently moved to Ann Arbor and has two students attending AAPS this fall. She served as a board member of the Monroe County Community School Corporation in Indianapolis where she advocated for the school district to adopt DEI measures laid out in a district funded study. She lists teacher retention and resources, restoring AAPS achievement to its pre-pandemic levels, engaging LGBTQ+ families, transparency, and environmental sustainability as key priorities.

Rima Mohammed is the parent of four school age students — the oldest attends an AAPS middle school. She has served as Vice President of the private, parochial Michigan Islamic Academy, where her younger children attend school. She is a proud Palestinian immigrant who credits American public schools for her success in the United States. Her key issues include community engagement, transparency, and curriculum assessment.

Although the school board is a nonpartisan race, school board candidates are often affiliated with a party and can vie for party endorsements. Two AAPS trustee candidates have deep ties to opposing parties.

Paulette Metoyer ran for Superior Township Treasurer as a Republican in 2020 and is a Republican delegate and active party member. She is chair of the Medical Reform Committee that seeks to limit the government's influence on individual citizens' healthcare choices and rights.

Susan Baskett, the only incumbent on the ballot, has served on the school board for 19 years. She has held a series of leadership positions on the Board of Trustees as well as the Ann Arbor Democratic Party and is involved with the Washtenaw County Democratic Party (WCDP). In 2021, she spearheaded support for Superintendent Swift to make the final call on whether to return to in-person learning. She is promoting herself as the only candidate with institutional memory and as a mentor to new board members.

Endorsements

Baskett, Lapham, Gides, and Mohammed secured the WCDP endorsement in early August — a decision made collectively by the WCDP members present at the endorsement meeting. Baskett was the first trustee candidate to seek WCDP endorsement over a decade ago. WCDP distributes a voter guide and has included endorsed school board candidates in the past giving those selected a significant boost in the race.

The Huron Valley AFL-CIO, the local labor union, has endorsed Baskett, Schmidt, Lapham, and James while the local union of teachers, Ann Arbor Education Association, endorsed Baskett, Schmidt, James, and Spencer. Both the Ann Arbor Education Association and the Michigan Education Association endorsed five candidates — Schmidt, Baskett, James, Spencer, and Gides — even though only four can be elected to serve.

How to Learn More

During the weeks leading up to the election, voters will have a chance to learn more about school board candidates through their activities online and in person. The League of Women Voters will publish their questionnaire and host an online forum, scheduled for October 9.

WCDP has published their candidate questionnaire answers as well as videos of their online zoom forums. The first forum included Baskett, Cortina, Gides, James, Kaufmann, Lapham, Mohammed, Schmidt, and Spencer, and the second was with Woods and Schumer.

You can also learn more about nearly all the candidates through their websites. At the time of writing this article, all candidates except Baskett, Metoyer, and Schumer have set up websites. ■

LSA JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FRANKEL CENTER EVENTS

Go to lsa.umich.edu/judaic for more information.

Mizrahi Poetry & Prose: Meet the Authors
Amira Hess, Shlomi Hatuka, Yossi Sucari, Mati Shmoelof, and Tehila Hakimi
October 3, 12 pm
Virtual
Register at: https://myumi.ch/n8bxy

Jews of Algeria in Light of Modern Studies: Major Trends and New Horizons
Amina Boukail
October 25, 1 pm
Virtual
Register at: https://myumi.ch/RWq4G

Padnos Public Engagement on Jewish Learning Event:
"Remnants of a Might Nations: Jews Through the Eyes of American Christians"
Julian Levinson
November 1
Hybrid
Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, GVSU
Register at: https://myumi.ch/DJN9M

"Can a Literary Mafia Affect Your Choice of Books?": Jews, Publishing, and American Literature
Josh Lambert
November 3, 1:30 pm
Hybrid
2022 South Thayer Building
Register at: https://myumi.ch/kyJmr

All events are free. If you have a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Frankel Center office.

LSA.UMICH.EDU/JUDAIC • JUDAICSTUDIES@UMICH.EDU • 734.763.9047

HurwitzGreene
REAL ESTATE GROUP

Your Ann Arbor Area Agent

Ariel Hurwitz-Greene

Neighbor to Neighbor, Personalized Service.
The most knowledgeable advocacy.

Cell 734-646-5333
Business 734-930-0200
ahurwitzgreene@cbwm.com
www.hurwitzgreenegroup.cbwm.com

COLDWELL BANKER
WEIR MANUEL

2723 S. State St, Ste. 130 Ann Arbor, MI 48104

NOMA
NOMARES.COM

NOMA REAL ESTATE SERVICES IS A FULL SERVICE COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE FIRM DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT ONE TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP AT A TIME. CALL US BEFORE BUYING, SELLING, OR LEASING AND SEE HOW WE CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE DECISIONS.

734.260.0857

Owner of NOMA RES
Douglas L. Allen

Beth Israel October events

Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel for services, classes, and events. Services are being held in person and virtually. Below is a list of the links to participate virtually in services at Beth Israel. Beth Israel is now live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links will also be available on the Beth Israel homepage (www.bethisrael-aa.org). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at office@bethisrael-aa.org.

Kol Nidre Tuesday, October 4
7 p.m. – Kol Nidre
7 p.m. – Teen Program (After Kol Nidre is chanted – approximate time)

Yom Kippur Wednesday, October 5
8:30 a.m. – Shaharit
10 a.m. – Youth Programs
4:30 p.m. Yom Kippur Group Discussion
5:30 p.m. – Minchah and Neilah
8 p.m. – Break the Fast

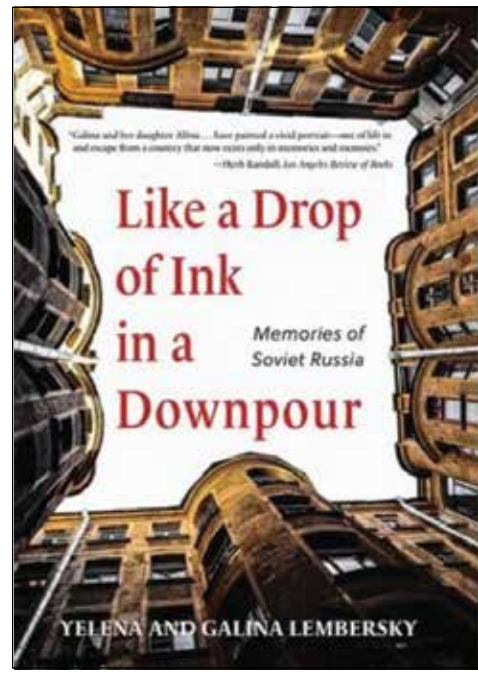
Sukkot Services
Sunday, October 9 at 6 p.m. - Minchah and Maariv (Zoom Only)
Monday, October 10 at 9:30 a.m. – Sukkot Morning Service
Monday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m. – Maariv (Zoom Only)
Tuesday, October 11 at 9:30 a.m. – Sukkot Morning Service
Tuesday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m. – Maariv (Zoom Only)
As part of the congregation's celebration of Sukkot, there will be a kiddush luncheon in the Sukkah on the first day of Sukkot, and a kiddush in the Sukkah on the second day. The lulav and etrog are used in the ancient ceremony of the lulav and etrog processions. For other services on these holidays please refer to the calendar at www.bethisrael-aa.org.

Pizza in the Hut
Wednesday, October 12 at 6 p.m.
Join Beth Israel in the Sukkah on the courtyard for pizza in the courtyard. Registration required at www.bethisrael-aa.org.

Aura of Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, October 14 at 6 p.m.
Join us for a monthly Musical Kabbalat Shabbat led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia in the Main Sanctuary and on Zoom.

Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah Services
Sunday, October 16 at 6 p.m. - Minchah and Maariv (Zoom Only)
Monday, October 17 at 9:30 a.m. – Shmini Atzeret Morning Service with Yizkor
Monday, October 17 at 6 p.m. – Simchat Torah Service with Neil Alexander and his Band
Tuesday, October 18 at 8:30 a.m. – Simchat Torah Morning Service
Tuesday, October 18 at 9:30 a.m. – Pancake Breakfast
Tuesday, October 18 at 10:15 a.m. – Torah Service and Hakafot
Beth Israel invites all to join us to Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Yizkor is included in the Shmini Atzeret Morning Service. Everyone is Invited to a family-friendly Evening Service with a Live Band, dancing Hakafot and prizes for kids at 6 p.m. on Monday, October 16 with Neil Alexander and his Band. Then join us for the morning service with a Pancake Breakfast on Tuesday, October 17 (8:30am Shacharit, 9:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast, 10:15 a.m. Torah Service and Hakafot).

Author Yelena Lembersky Speaks at Friday Evening Services
Friday, October 28 at 6 p.m.
During the years in which refugees from the Soviet Union came to Ann Arbor under the volunteer leadership of Helen Aminoff and other congregants and with the organization of Rabbi Allan Kensky and then Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, many Russians settled in Ann Arbor and many joined BIC. One of those was a woman named Lucy Lemberskaya who was in some ways the most visible of all the Russian community. She was quite a charismatic woman with a fascinating history. Lucy's daughter Galena and her granddaughter Yelena have written a fascinating book about life in the former Soviet Union for Soviet dissidents titled *Like a Drop of Ink in a Downpour: Memories of Soviet Russia*.



Like a Drop of Ink in a Downpour is a heartfelt mother-and-daughter memoir about three generations of women and their fight to leave Soviet Russia. A mother is a dissident, a refusenik, and a prisoner in Leningrad (Saint Petersburg) in the 1970s and '80s. Her daughter, 11 years old, is left without a family. A grandmother is in the USA, waiting for her daughter and granddaughter and not knowing if she'll ever see them again. "I am fine," the three of them write to each other in their letters. How can you be "fine" when you have to fight to survive? When you must be silent? When the place that you love turns against you?
Told from dual points of view, this memoir shows the reality of life in the Soviet Union, giving an insider's perspective on the roots of Putin's Russia. It is also a coming-of-age story, heartfelt and funny, a testament to the unbreakable bond between mothers and daughters, and the healing power of art.
Yelena will read from and discuss her book and her experiences and those of her family during Friday Evening services.

Serenity Shabbat
Saturday, October 29 at 9:30 a.m.
Serenity Shabbat, hosted by various congregations, focuses on addiction awareness and the wisdom of Jewish tradition as it relates to the spiritual practice of recovery. Everyone is welcome, including members of the recovery community, friends and family who have been affected by a loved one's addiction, and anyone interested in this unique spiritual experience!

Theology Book Club - Online
Wednesdays at 8 p.m.
Beth Israel Congregation's Theology Book Club welcomes you to join them to read together and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. The books are in English. Contact Paul Shifrin at (248) 514-7276 for more information.

In Person and Online Services

Evening Minyan – virtual only
Sunday–Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Friday Evening Services – in person and virtual
Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning Services – In person and virtual Saturday at 9:30 a.m. ■

Yelena Lembersky, continued from page 1

Felix Lembersky. Reclining Woman: The Siege of Leningrad, 1964 Oil on canvas

Felix Lembersky. Execution. Babi Yar. Leningrad, 1952. Oil on canvas

Yelena Lembersky's first book, Felix Lembersky: Paintings and Drawings, was devoted to the art of a prominent Leningrad artist with roots in Poland and Ukraine; her grandfather is now best known for his "Execution: Babi Yar" canvases and his nonfigurative work created in the 1960s. Like a Drop of Ink in a Downpour, a memoir, co-written with her mother, Galina, is her first work of creative nonfiction. Her short pieces have appeared in World Literature Today, The Forward, Cardinal Points Literary Journal, and The New Yorker. She grew up in Leningrad and immigrated to the United States in 1987. She holds degrees in art and architecture from the University of Michigan and MIT. ■

Limmud Michigan returns

Mira Sussman, special to the WJN

After three years, Limmud Michigan is back in-person!

After COVID-related postponement, Limmud Michigan will be held on Sunday, October 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wayne State University's Student Center in downtown Detroit.

Limmud Michigan brings together people from all walks of life, ages, Jewish backgrounds, and interests from all over southeastern Michigan and beyond to spend the day learning about dozens of topics. The organizing is volunteer-driven and the event provides "Torah li'shma," or "learning for its own sake." This year will be the fifth such day of learning in Michigan.

There will be learning opportunities for everyone, regardless of one's experience or background in Judaism.

Limmud events happen all over the world, each with their own leadership, event schedule, and style. Over 70 Limmud groups exist in communities outside of North America, with an additional 16 groups in North America; there is a Limmud event happening somewhere in the world nearly every week of the year.

Over the course of the day, Limmud Michigan participants can choose from more than 40 sessions. There will be 8–10 sessions offered each hour throughout the day, covering topics from Jewish art and culture to current events and text study. Presenters include known educators and figures in the community as well as volunteers — anyone can propose a session!

This year's Limmud Michigan will have a large contingent of presenters from Ann Arbor. These presenters include Dr. Karla Goldman, who will present on white privilege and Jewish identity, Moss Herberholtz on Jewish mysticism and psychedelic substances, Richard Primus on taxation and tithing, and Dr. Michael Weiss will discuss the book of Ecclesiastes and its role in Jewish canon. Additional presenters from Washtenaw County include Rabba Yael Keller, Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg, Rita Benn, Dr. Julian Levinson, and Rabbi Rob Dobrusin.

This year's event will be sure to have something for everyone, including the joy of learning together in person. ■

Info and registration available at whova.com/portal/webapp/limmu_202203.

For additional information, contact Limmud Michigan at askus@limmudmichigan.org.

We can't help you decide what's for dinner.

But we can help you plan for the future.

bank of ann arbor

Member FDIC

לימוד Limmud MI

Scan the QR code to register or visit the link below:

whova.com/portal/webapp/limmu_202203/sign_in

Sunday, October 30th
Wayne State University

Interested in volunteering?
Visit www.limmudmichigan.org/volunteer.

For more information, email askus@limmudmichigan.org.

Join Jewish Family Services
For The Second Annual

WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES

Sunday October 9th , 2022

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Burns Park Ann Arbor

JFS
Jewish Family Services
of Washtenaw County

This event helps to raise the vital funds necessary to support our efforts in addressing the humanitarian crises around the world.

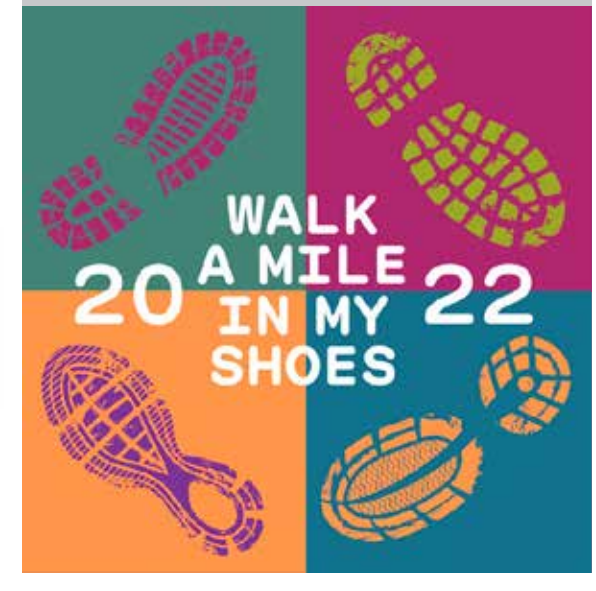
Watch our website as more details are shared
jfsannarbor.org

There are no words to describe the feeling of bombs falling around your house as you look into your children's eyes. After the bombing started in our town, we spent months taking shelter in a school basement, praying for the sirens to go silent. Our prayers were answered when a kind couple from Michigan decided to sponsor us. My family and I were finally safe. Two days after we arrived in Ann Arbor, we met Cynthia and Rachel from Jewish Family Services, who have supported and guided us through our new lives in Michigan. We came here with almost no possessions but JFS provided us with food, clothing and money for rent. We are so grateful for the help we've received but, more than anything, we are grateful for the kindness we have been shown as we know all too well what the world can look like without it.

Be a part of helping these hopes become a reality
Help JFS work with families who are already here and those who are still trying to escape.

Learn how you can become a sponsor—you will not be doing it alone..

WE WILL DO IT TOGETHER



OLD NATIONAL BANK
Retirement Income Solutions
THE BOTTLE CREW THOUGHTFUL SOLUTIONS
bank of ann arbor
Farbman Group®
Proudly Supported by Jewish Federation® OF GREATER ANN ARBOR
Temple Beth Emeth
verizon
Homewatch CareGivers®
NOMA REAL ESTATE SERVICES NOMARES.COM

Next month:

Enigma Variations

November 11, 2022 // 8pm
Hill Auditorium

Shaw *Entr'acte*

Adams *Must the Devil Have All the Good Tunes?*

Elgar *Enigma Variations*

Phillip Bush, piano

Earl Lee, conductor & music director

ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Earl Lee, Music Director

tickets.a2so.com | 734.994.4801

Ayse's CAFÉ™
Turkish Dine-In / Take-Out / Catering

Serving Turkish Home Cooking
for 29 years...
Mon. - Sat. 12:00-7:00pm

29th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022
5:00pm and 7:00pm seatings

Music Filled Evening and Delicious Menu

Reservations: Ayse at 734-662-1711 or
ayse@aysescafe.com
www.aysescafe.com

STAY WARM THIS WINTER
NEW COATS ARRIVING WEEKLY
ARC'TERYX • CANADA GOOSE • PATAGONIA • SAM • SAVE THE DUCK • THE NORTH FACE

BIVOUAC
734 . 761 . 6207 Mon-Sat. 10-8 Sun: 11:30-5
336. S State St. Ann Arbor, Mi. 48104
Free Same Day Delivery* & Free Shipping on orders over $49 www.bivouacannarbor.com

HALLOWEEN AT AADL

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 • NOON–3:00PM
DOWNTOWN LOBBY

HALLOWEEN PUPPET SHOW
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31 • 10:30AM–11:00AM
REPEATED 11:30AM–NOON
DOWNTOWN LOBBY

all the details:
AADL.ORG/HALLOWEEN

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY

giraffe
DESIGN BUILD
Join us! BRAG Ann Arbor Fall Remodelers Home Tour, October 22 & 23, 11-5pm
giraffedesignbuild.com info@giraffedesignbuild.com 734.489.1924

VOTE NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Kathy White

★ Democrat ★ for University of Michigan Regent

Experience, Expertise, Excellence

Fulbright Scholar • Brigadier General, Army National Guard

Electrical Engineer • White House Fellow • Patent Attorney • WSU Professor of Law

Building a Bridge between Education, Science, Industry and Government

Paid for by *Friends of Kathy White* • PO Box 1842 • Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1842 • www.friendsofkathywhite.com

Irene Butter Fund for Holocaust and Human Rights Education

by Joy Wolfe Ensor

Generations After, Temple Beth Emeth's group of descendants of Holocaust survivors, is excited to announce the establishment of the Irene Butter Fund for Holocaust and Human Rights Education. Its purpose is to support projects that embody Irene's mantras of "Never a bystander," "Refusing to be enemies," and "All people are our kin."

Recent years have seen a sharp increase in antisemitic hate crimes and Holocaust denial, including in Michigan. According to FBI reports, crimes targeting the Jewish community consistently constitute over half of all hate crimes targeting U.S. religious communities.

A recent study by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany revealed a shocking lack of Holocaust awareness among U.S. millennials and Gen Z across all 50 states. In Michigan, 59% of respondents did not know that six million Jews were murdered, and 45% could not name a single one of the 40,000 camps and ghettos in Europe during the Holocaust — not Auschwitz, not Dachau, not Bergen-Belsen. Education about the Holocaust, its root causes, and its echoes in the present day is vital to our understanding of contemporary human rights struggles.

Generations After chose to name the Fund for its survivor-generation mentor Irene Butter in recognition of the many ways that she has supported and inspired them and the broader community. Ruth Finkel Wade notes, "Irene Butter refuses to be solely defined by the label 'Holocaust survivor.' As a champion for human rights, she has turned her experiences of loss, brutality, and murder during the Nazis' campaign of genocide into a life devoted to sustaining the humanity and dignity of all who have been treated with cruelty. Our fund honors Irene's dedication by carrying forward her legacy for generations to come."

Shoshana Mandel Warner adds, "None of us embodies tzedek more than our dear Irene. She walks the high but difficult road of humility, love, and justice to create, empower, and restore vital connections in our world. Irene has carefully and lovingly transformed pain, suffering, and intolerance into educating the world. How fortunate we are to know her, a personal heroine in our midst."

An internationally known Holocaust survivor, educator, and peace activist, Irene is a co-founder of Zeitouna, a dialogue group consisting of Jewish and Palestinian women

working for a just peace, and a co-founder of the Raoul Wallenberg Lecture Series at the University of Michigan. She is the subject of two movies, Refusing to Be Enemies: The Zeitouna Story (2007) and Never a Bystander (2014), and is a featured subject in Jan Jarboe Russell's New York Times bestseller The Train to Crystal City: FDR's Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America's Only Family Internment Camp During World War II (Scribner, 2016). Irene's personal memoir, From Holocaust to Hope: Shores Beyond Shores, A Bergen-Belsen Survivor's True Story (TSB, 2019; Leapfrog Press, 2021), was a National Jewish Book Award finalist.

Rita Benn speaks to Irene's importance in bringing her message of compassion and healing to communities around the world: "Irene is an inspiration not only to adults, but also to the thousands of children with whom she has shared her stories. After hearing her speak, children — particularly those who are facing adversity in their own lives — share that they feel emboldened and empowered by her example."

Irene received a PhD in Economics from Duke University and is a Professor Emerita of Public Health at the University of Michigan. Among her many accolades, she is the recipient of the 2011 Genesis of Ann Arbor Distinguished Humanitarian Award and the 2019 Ann Arbor Rotary Club's Robert S. Northrup Humanitarian Award. In honor of Irene's 90th birthday in December 2020, the City of Ann Arbor declared December 11 to be "Irene Butter Day."

Generations After has been involved in Holocaust remembrance and education since 2004, when the group initiated an annual tradition of writing original Holocaust remembrance services for the Temple Beth Emeth community. They have also contributed to programming at the TBE Religious School. Encouraged by Irene to share more widely their experiences growing up in the shadow of the Holocaust, members of Generations After recently published a 16-chapter anthology entitled The Ones Who Remember: Second-Generation Voices of the Holocaust (City Point Press, 2022).

Joy Wolfe Ensor expresses the group's hope that "the Irene Butter Fund will enable Generations After's legacy of remembrance and education to be sustained long into the future." Fran Lewy Berg notes, "The Irene Butter Fund is synonymous with the words Never Forget — for the Holocaust and for human rights in general — at a time when the world is, alarmingly, doing just that."

Generations After is proud to have made an initial donation of over $10,000 to establish the Irene Butter Fund. They have set a minimum fundraising goal of $50,000 to ensure that the Fund becomes an endowment to support educational programming for years to come.

How to contribute

The Fund is managed by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Ann Arbor. At this time, the Foundation can accept donations by paper or electronic check or stock transfers and anticipates making an online option available in the near future. Checks are payable to Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Ann Arbor (please specify "Irene Butter Fund" on the memo line of the check) and directed to Jewish Community Foundation, Attn.: Robert Deschaine, 2939 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. For stock transfers, please see the Gifts of Stock form at www.jewishannarbor.org/ways-to-give or contact Rob Deschaine at robert@jewishannarbor.org. ■

Joe Biden calls out the dangers of MAGA extremism

By Chuck Newman

This month's column takes a break from my usual format of summarizing one of my interviews on the Zoomcast "Conversations" in order to reflect on reactions to President Biden's August 26 speech in which he called the MAGA Republicans "semi-fascist."

Dan Pfeiffer, former White House Communications Director under President Obama, certainly thinks Biden is right to do so. Pfeiffer quotes Argentine historian and chair of the history department at the New School for Social Research, Federico Finchelstein, who wrote in the *Washington Post*:

> "Donald Trump represents a new type of global autocratic ruler who is legally elected, but also embraces elements that fascist figures like Perón felt were too controversial: totalitarian lies, racism, and illegal means such as coups to destroy democracy from within. Trump might best be considered a "wannabe fascist." By that I mean he is a populist who aspires to return to a form of fascism. His rule was not full-fledged fascism because it did not descend into dictatorship. But it could have been, if his attempts to retain power after the 2020 election had been successful."

Many are surprised that Joe Biden has been so critical of the Republican Party. After all, he ran on a platform of promoting bipartisanship and he has an inclination to search for redeeming qualities in even the worst people. Dan Pfeiffer "was a little surprised to hear Biden refer to the MAGA philosophy as 'semi-fascism.' If I was surprised, Washington was awestruck. Otherwise reasonable pundits went searching for pearls to clutch."

Not surprisingly, Republicans are calling the comments "despicable." Kevin McCarthy's reaction was typical: "President Biden has chosen to divide, demean, and disparage his fellow Americans. Why? simply because they disagree with his policies. When the President speaks tonight at Independence Hall, the first lines out of his mouth should be to apologize for slandering tens of millions of Americans as 'fascists.'"

As you may know, Kevin McCarthy is the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives and he voted to overturn the 2020 election after the January 6th insurrection.

I feel Andy Borowitz's take on their reaction in his recent Borowitz Report satire is totally justified:

> WASHINGTON (The Borowitz Report) — "Calling President Biden's recent prime-time address "deeply offensive and upsetting," a group representing the nation's armed insurrectionists has complained that the speech hurt their feelings."

The Democrats prospects have been improving lately due to the Roe decision, falling gas prices, the former President whose criminal activities are increasingly in the media, and their recent legislative successes. It is no wonder that the Republicans have been trying to change the subject.

Dan Pfeiffer concluded with, "The leader of the Republican Party and the frontrunner for the 2024 nomination led a violent insurrection to overturn a legitimate, democratic election. Trump reportedly wanted to use the military and the Department of Homeland Security to prevent the peaceful transition to power. He also just demanded to be reinstated. But this is bigger than Trump."

Unfortunately, the media seemingly hasn't been all that interested in the current threat to Democracy.

As Paul Farhi wrote in the Washington Post:

"While President Biden warned the nation about threats to democracy in a prime-time address on Thursday, ABC was airing a game show, 'Press Your Luck.' As Biden spelled out his objections to former president Donald Trump and 'MAGA Republicans,' NBC was broadcasting a rerun of 'Law and Order.' CBS skipped the speech to show a rerun of 'Young Sheldon.'" ■

Jewish Young Professionals celebrate new board

Hilary Greenberg, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

On Sunday, August 28, Jewish Young Professionals held its annual Community Celebration. This program was started by longtime JYP leader Joelle Abramowitz, and has grown to be a community favorite event.

Temple Beth Emeth generously hosted the event in their beautiful and spacious outdoor tent. The program began with delicious appetizers catered by The Produce Station. Attendees enjoyed cheese and crackers, an antipasto platter, tuna tartare, and more! There were even adorable little cakes in assorted flavors. Incoming and outgoing board members received personalized gifts and handwritten notes of appreciation.

Hilary Greenberg welcomed everyone to the event and introduced Eileen Freed, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Eileen spoke beautifully about the importance of the Federation mission and how JYP plays a fundamental role in that work. Hilary then called upon Sheira Cohen, outgoing president of the board, to speak about her time as a JYP leader. She also gave lovely words about the hard work of the outgoing board members. The program continued with an installation of the JYP board and remarks from incoming Co-Presidents, Ariella Hoffman-Peterson and Evan Frenklak. Decky Alexander, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's board president, wrapped up the event with her always inspiring and entertaining nuggets of wisdom.

From left: Evan Frenklak, Co-President; Ariella Hoffman-Peterson, Co-President; Hilary Greenberg, Federation Staff; Sarah Posin, Programming Chair; Rachael Dawson-Baglien, Communications Chair; Katie Cassell, Member at Large.

JYP is pleased to introduce you to their 2022–2023 board.

Ariella Hoffman-Peterson is a PhD student in the School of Public Health at University of Michigan. Originally from Chicago, she grew up in vibrant Jewish communities as a student at Solomon Schechter Day School and teaching Hebrew school at her reform congregation in the suburbs. In college, at Northwestern University, she became a student leader in Hillel, running religious programming and leading Jewish student trips to Morocco and Jamaica. She found great Jewish opportunities after college in both New York and Chicago through OneTable Shabbat dinners, Moishe House, and Base Hillel. After serving on the JYP board helped her feel at home in Ann Arbor this past year, she is thrilled to help lead JYP Ann Arbor this coming year as Co-President.

Evan Frenklak moved to Michigan for an engineering job in 2019. He joined JYP that summer for a bike ride to Ypsi and has enjoyed planning and attending outdoor events ever since. He served as this past year's programming co-chair and planned many successful JYP events. Evan is looking forward to Shabbat with the group this upcoming year, especially during the warm months when the weather allows for gathering at Ann Arbor's varied and numerous parks.

Sarah Posin is originally from Wheeling, West Virginia, the home to a small but vibrant Jewish community that, at over 170 years young, is the oldest active Jewish congregation in West Virginia. Sarah holds a B.A. in Anthropology/Archaeology from Marshall University in Huntington, WV, and a Master of Science in Human Osteology and Funerary Archaeology from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom. Sarah has been a Cultural Resource Management archaeologist for nearly 15 years. This career brough her to the Ann Arbor area in 2016 when she took her current position with CRM company Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. as a Project Archaeologist. Sarah lives with her sister and best friend, Allison, and their three guinea pigs, Sprinkles, Mocha, and Marshmallow. Sarah is looking forward to helping plan all the fun and meaningful events for this upcoming year!

Rachael Dawson-Baglien was born and raised in Metro Detroit. She is a graduate of both Hillel Day school and Frankel Jewish Academy and was active in BBYO. She earned a master's degree in macro social work/community organizing from the University of Michigan. Rachael works as a project manager for Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County. Her position entails reducing barriers for caregivers and older adults seeking resources. Rachael is passionate about creating a sense of community, both in person and in online spaces. She served on the JYP Board in 2019–2020 as the Programming Co-Chair and pivoted to virtual programming once COVID became a threat. She hopes to make JYP's social media fun but also informative, sharing information about upcoming events and happenings in the community. In her spare time she loves reading, going to comic book conventions, and spending time with her husband and tiny dog.

Katie Cassell is an accomplished performer of theatrical and musical experience, including holding a soprano section leader position for a synagogue in West Bloomfield, as well as working full time as a project manager at an advertising agency. Her leadership experience consists of heading an entire technical crew for annual Purim Schpiels, as well as serving on the planning committee for a Young Adult Summer Camp weekend at Camp Tamarack with The Well. Katie is overjoyed to be selected for the JYP board so she can share her creative spirit and ideas and take this opportunity as potential for growth. ■

Jewish community study to begin in October

WJN

For over a year, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, in partnership with local Jewish communal organizations and congregations including the Washtenaw Jewish News, has been planning the implementation of a population study of the Washtenaw County Jewish community. This study will be conducted by a research team at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University and NORC at the University of Chicago.

Starting in October, you may be contacted by letter, phone, or email with an invitation to participate in the survey. Because this is a scientific survey with a defined sample frame, you may not receive one of these calls or emails; however, if you do, we encourage you to respond and participate in this important project.

The Federation will have a website about the study, which you can find at jewishannarobr.org. If you have any additional questions, contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org, 734-773-3537. ■

Federation welcomes new JCLP intern Ben Shovers

Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is pleased to welcome Ben Shovers to its team. Ben is a first year Master of Social Work and Jewish Communal Leadership Program student at the University of Michigan and doing his field placement at the Jewish Federation. He will be supporting efforts in all areas of Federation, particularly with the Annual Campaign and the Jewish Community Foundation.

Ben was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, and he graduated from the George Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a double minor in psychology and sociology. Ben came to Ann Arbor in 2021 and completed his Master of Management from the Ross School of Business in May 2022. During his undergraduate studies, Ben interned for the Jewish Federation of Madison as the Assistant to the Executive Director where, among other duties, he assisted in fundraising efforts and strategic planning for their Annual Tzedakah Campaign. "I am excited to apply my classroom theories and knowledge and to bring my previous experience from the Jewish Federation of Madison to the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor," says Ben.

The Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan offers a distinctive educational opportunity for emerging leaders committed to helping Jewish communities meet 21st-century challenges while also addressing broader social concerns. "Our organization has been enriched by the contributions of JCLP interns over the past three years," says Federation executive director Eileen Freed. "Ben brings exceptional experience and great enthusiasm for our work. We're excited to have him as part of our team."

To reach Ben, email interns@jewishannarbor.org. For more information about JCLP contact program director Karla Goldman at kargold@umich.edu. For more information about the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, visit www.jewishannarbor.org ■

Look what's coming in November

Shira Klein, JCC Book Festival Committee

It is mid-August as I write this article for an event happening in November. Not only is this event happening here in November but in hundreds of other Jewish communities in the United States. So, you may ask "what is so special about November in so many Jewish communities"? The answer …

The Jewish Book Festival, but of course! How did this festival start and why is it so special?

In 1925 Fanny Goldstein, a librarian at the Boston Public Library, West End Branch,

Written by RUTH BEHAR
Illustrated by DEVON HOLZWARTH
Pura Belpré Award Winner
Tía Fortuna's New Home
A Jewish Cuban Journey

curated an exhibit of Jewish books to encourage book giving during the Jewish holiday of Chanukah. She repeated the exhibit again in 1926 and this inspired a call by Rabbi S. Felix Mendelssohn of Chicago for the observance of a Jewish book week. The observance of Jewish Book Week was coordinated in Boston by the Boston Jewish Book Week Committee, founded in 1930 and headed by Fanny Goldstein. It was 10 years later in 1940 that the National Committee for Jewish Book Week was organized.

In 1943 the Jewish Book Council took over the duties of the National Committee, and Jewish Book Week was extended to become Jewish Book Month. The Council was run by Carolyn Starman Hessel who is credited with growing Jewish Book Month and the associated book tours into one of the most important marketing events in American publishing. What better idea than a book with a Jewish theme and/or a Jewish author!

The first Jewish Book Fair in Ann Arbor was held in 1972 at Temple Beth Emeth, but it wasn't until 2002 that the Jewish Community Center joined the Jewish Book Council and held the first Jewish Book Festival at the JCC, doubling the size of the previously held Jewish Book Fair.

So, how does this all work and how do authors get chosen? I have never done "speed dating" but I envision it to be similar. Each author is given 2 minutes to describe their book and "sell" themselves and their book to the 100+ Jewish community representatives that are on the Zoom call. (This is how it has been done the past 2 years during our COVID years.) This all happens over a period of 3 days with over 260 authors participating.

As the authors speak, we, the selection committee are rating them. Here in Ann Arbor, we are wondering how our Ann Arbor community will respond to each author and book: Are they good speakers? Is the topic current? Have we done this before? Can we plan a program around the theme of the book? Can we find exciting moderators to engage with the authors?

The committee gathers nightly to narrow down our choices and by the third night we come up with a grouping of authors that we submit to the Jewish Book Council with dates and times. (Yes, we must be that specific this early!) Somehow, the JBC work their magic and get back to us with a list of those authors who accepted our invitation. We then get down to the hard work of planning moderators and programs for our Ann Arbor community.

It is a challenge, but it is also fun! Our committee works hard to find a variety of authors that stimulate our minds as well as warm our hearts, cause us to laugh and cry, to remember our past and to plan our future.

Below is what our calendar looks like as of today. In November we will have a full spread in the Washtenaw Jewish News for you to remove and have handy for reference. Meanwhile, get out your calendars and pencil in the authors you look forward to seeing and hearing from. There will be both in person and virtual events.

Look next month to confirm who is coming, where, and when, or go to book.jccannarbor.org.

November 6, 11 a.m., in person

Children's Authors

Sarah Sassoon, author of ***Shosham's Bangle***

A beautiful story of Shosham's love of her bangle and her Nana and the journey they make from Iraq to Israel.

Ruth Behar, author of *Tia Fortuna's New Home*

A tender, intergenerational story of learning to say goodbye and exploring a new beginning, influenced by the author's Sephardic and Cuban background.

November 6, 7 p.m., JCC, in person

Heather Cabot, author of *Level Up*

In this book Heather joins authors Stacey Abrams and Lara Hodgson in guiding small business owners to not just grow, but to thrive. Heather will be with us in person to discuss this new book.

November 7, 1 p.m., virtual

Jai Chakrabarti, author of *A Play for the End of the World*

This author weaves three narratives, three continents, two wars, a play-within-a-story, and four children caught up in different traumas. The narratives all share issues of memory, guilt and hope. This debut novel is a work of fiction but the existence of the play is real, as is the orphanage and the man who wanted to teach the children about what was to come. Chakrabarti's writing is beautiful and sensitive as he takes the reader through these narratives.

November 7, 7 p.m., virtual

Stephen Mills, author of *Chosen: A Memoir of Stolen Boyhood*

A story of a boy who was given special attention by the director of his Jewish camp, and then was sexually abused by him. This happened over 50 years ago. The tragic thing is that it is still happening. Stephen Mills is hoping to change that.

November 8, 1 p.m., virtual

Marjorie Margolies, author of *And How Are the Children?*

Margolies provides upbeat advice and inspiration on what she has learned as an athlete, educator, reporter, congressperson, adoptive advocate, parent, and world traveler.

November 8, 7 p.m., virtual

Andy Dunn, author of *Burn Rate*

The co-founder of the menswear startup Bonobos opens up about his struggle with bipolar disorder that nearly cost him everything in this gripping, radically honest memoir of mental illness and entrepreneurship.

November 9, 1 p.m., virtual

Benedetta Jasmine Guetta, author of *Cooking Alla Giudia*

Learn about the culinary Jewish traditions of Italy. The author includes recipes for everyone whether you are vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, or kosher.

November 9, 7 p.m., virtual

Joel Shawn Poremba, author of *My Name is Staszek Surdel*

After hearing his father's testimony with the USC Shoah Foundation, Joel wanted to tell his father's story of survival. It took him 21 years from when he heard it to write the book. Nathan was nine years old when his father was murdered by the Nazis and Nathan's childhood ended. His life became one of resistance and triumph.

November 10, 1 p.m., virtual

Letty Cottin Pogrebin, author of *Shanda*

Pogrebin tells the story of three generations of complicated, intense 20th century Jews for whom the desire to fit in and the fear of public humiliation either drove their aspirations or crushed their spirit. The story is that of dozens of members of her family beginning with her own long-suppressed secret.

November 10, 7 p.m., in person

Annabelle Gurwitch, author of *You're Leaving When?*

In a collection of essays Gurwitch shares her mid-life adventures. She embraces home sharing, she relearns to parent one pronoun at a time, she wades into the dating pool. Throughout she offers up resilience and adaptability.

November 13, 11 a.m., in person

Local Authors Panel

Franki Bagdade, author of *I Love My Kids But Don't Always Like Them*

Bagdade takes her 20 years of experience in observation and study in the classroom to guide parents in improving their child's behavior. She gives step-by-step guidance with creative solutions, systems, and strategies to empower your child to take responsibility for their behavior.

Michelle Segar, author of *The Joy Choice*

Segar offers a fresh choice that liberates you from self-defeating obligations and rigid requirements of past diets and workouts. Discover the easy, flexible three-step tool that works, guiding you to achieve your eating and exercise goals.

Dina Shtull, author of *If My Talit Could Talk* (pre-recorded video)

During a dream a 13-year-old boy correlates his dreams of ancestral tents with the details of his talit. His questions try to bring a better understanding of his ritual garment and an age-old tradition.

Ken Wachsberger, author of *Never Be Afraid: A Belgian Jew in the French Resistance*

A story of a working-class activist member of his socialist union in pre-Nazi Belgium, who flees with his family to southern France when the Nazis invade, assumes a Christian identity, and through a series of events, joins the Maquis, the French resistance. The story spans several decades depicting the man's love and devotion to family except for an act of self-preservation committed during the greatest moral crisis of his life.

Ann Epstein, author of *One Person's Loss*

This book explores whether marriage, even grounded in love, can survive personal clashes and the traumas of the Holocaust.

November 13, 7 p.m., virtual

Daniel Levin, author of *Violins of Hope*

Levin's photographic book showcases the extraordinary work of Israeli luthier Amnon Weinstein for the world to see what he has done to restore violins that miraculously survived the Holocaust. Levin's research led to stories that intertwine Weinstein with renowned individuals such as Joshua Bell, Johannes Brahms, Daniel Craig, and Adrien Brody.

November 14, 1 p.m., virtual

Jonathan Reisman, author of *The Unseen Body*

Reisman takes readers on a unique journey navigating our insides like an explorer discovering a new world. He intertwines stories from his medical training and career, his travels, culture, nature, and food.

November 14, 7 p.m., virtual

Benjamin Spratt and Joshua Stanton, authors of *Awakenings*

Moderated by Rabbis Caine and Whinston Spratt and Stanton invite us to visualize and speculate on what the future of Jewish communal life might be. What do congregants need? How does Israel fit into this?

November 15, 1 p.m., virtual

Gwen Strauss, author of *The Nine*

Strauss brings to life the hardships and horrors nine women experienced when they

were resistance fighters as they escaped a German forced labor camp and made a 10-day journey across the front lines of WWII from Germany back to Paris.

November 15, 7 p.m., in person

Julie Ellis, an editor of *The Ones Who Remember*

A collection of essays written by second-generation Holocaust survivors describing how it was growing up as children of survivors.

November 16, 1 p.m., virtual

Diane Smith, mother of Mallory Smith, author of *Salt in My Soul*

Diane Smith tells the story her daughter Mallory wrote the last 10 years of her life. When Mallory died following an infection post lung transplant, her mother was left the password to access all her journals. Since the publishing of the book, a documentary has also been released giving a detailed picture of Mallory, her life, and her resilience dealing with cystic fibrosis.

Daniel Leslie Grunfeld, author of *By the Grace of the Game*

Grunfeld, a former basketball star, weaves the tale of his family in a delicate narrative where basketball unknowingly held the power to heal wounds, build bridges, and tie together a fractured family.

November 16, 7 p.m., virtual

Scott Hershovitz, author of *Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Adventures in Philosophy with My Kids*

Moderated by Len Niehoff

When your children ask you philosophical questions and try to answer them, you help them along. Hershovitz covers punishment, authority, sex, truth, existence of God. The simpler questions get answered too. Can I drink soda? Is it okay to swear? He and the kids show us that we all have a lot to learn from listening to and thinking with kids.

November 17, 11 a.m., virtual

Sara C. Mednick, author of *The Power of the Downstate*

Moderated by Karen Dobkins

If you are a "go - go - go" type person, come and listen to Sara Mednick introduce the "Downstate" — the key to rest and rejuvenation on a cellular level. As long as we know how to replenish ourselves by engaging in activities that make us feel "rested, full of energy, and loved," we can handle a reasonable amount of stress.

November 18, 1 p.m., virtual

Jean Hanff Korelitz, author of *The Latecomer*

Korelitz is a best-selling NYT author. In this novel she introduces us to a family who has triplets that are the results of the early days of IVF. The surprise she throws the reader is that as the triplets go their separate ways as they get older, their mother becomes increasingly lonely and makes the fateful decision of bringing a fourth child into the world. ■

A conversation with Aaron Ahuvia on The Things We Love

Emily Eisbruch, special to the WJN

Aaron Ahuvia's new book *The Things We Love: How Our Passions Connect Us and Make Us Who We Are* investigates the emotional relationships people have with things, drawing on findings from psychology, neuroscience, and marketing. A professor of marketing at the University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Business, Aaron has deep roots in the Ann Arbor Jewish community, including being a founder and member of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. Here's a Q&A with Aaron about the book.

Emily: Aaron, what are some things you are especially loving these days?

Aaron: I love my dogs, Noodle and Dumpling, of course. I love music and my stereo, which is my version of a midlife crisis car. I listen to all my music through the streaming service Qobuz (similar to Spotify) which makes it super easy to find new music.

Emily: To indulge in generalizations, do you think people in a university town have different attitudes towards loving things compared to people in other areas?

Aaron: Oh hell ya. My initial research was with highly educated people around Northwestern. Only later when I was able to get more diverse samples did I realize how much being in a highly educated intellectual community impacts what you love. In much of America being wealthy is the key to social status, but in intellectual communities social status comes more from being smart, creative, and sophisticated. This leads to a culture of connoisseurship where people like to be experts at things and to be very skilled at discerning what makes a good movie, or a good meal, or a good whatever, different from a bad one. As a result, people tend to be more critical and love fewer things.

Emily: Many of us seem to love our phones. What does research show about how our love of technology is impacting human relationships?

Aaron: One of the main reasons people love things is that they help us connect with other people. Phones are a great example of this and it's one of the reasons why many people love their phones so much. In fact, in one study I found that the more friends people had the more they tended to love their phones. But there are also some downsides to the technology. Social media has taken the social competitiveness (who is more popular?) that has always existed and put it on steroids by providing clear quantitative measures of popularity such as who has more friends/followers. Furthermore, people often feel bad about themselves because they compare the mundane aspects of their life to the often exaggerated best experiences of other people. Perhaps I should perform a public service by posting actual moments from my life: here I am staring dejectedly at a screen full of emails I need to get through, etc. My contribution to society would be to lower the bar on social expectations for everyone else.

Emily: The chapter "A Brand New Religion" contains interesting insights on how secular people often connect more to brands than religious people. Why do you think this is?

Aaron: That might surprise some local readers because in Ann Arbor we have a lot of people who belong to an intellectual subculture that is mostly secular and also quite critical of materialism. But if you get outside of our Ann Arbor bubble, in America generally, secular people tend to be more materialistic and more into status brands than religious people are. There are two reasons for this. First, everyone needs to define their identity. For religious people, their religion does a lot of this identity work for them. But for secular people, they need other ways of defining themselves. In America, companies are very happy to provide brands that, for a price, can help people define and communicate their identity.

The second reason that religious people tend to be less into brands is really a result of how social class works. Wealthier people are both less religious and more into brands than less wealthy people. While some low-income cultures, such as hip-hop culture, are famously into brands, on average, people get more interested in brands as their income goes up. This makes sense, prestige brands are a lot more fun when you have the money to afford them. So, since affluent people are both more into brands and less into religion than working class people, we see an overall correlation that religious people are less interested in brands than secular people are.

Emily: The book has an interesting discussion of identity markers. What are your thoughts on identity markers in the American Jewish community?

Aaron: Jews have always been big on identity markers such as the mezuzah on the door and, for men, circumcision. Circumcision isn't the typical identity marker since it's not normally visible. But like many good identity markers it involves sacrifice and commitment. For an example of how identity markers can show commitment, consider long hair on men as an identity marker for male hippies. Groups like the hippies wanted to avoid people working at mainstream jobs during the week but then pretending to be hippies and going to the hippie parties on the weekend. If you were going to enjoy the parties, you needed to show commitment to the cause, to be a "real" hippie. Long hair was a good identity marker because it takes a long time for hair to grow, so you can't have short hair at work and then long hair on the weekend. It's the same for circumcision. It is not something one does lightly. It shows the family's commitment to their Jewish identity.

Status symbols like expensive cars are identity markers for being in a high-income group, and they work the same way. Because these status symbols are expensive, low-income people usually can't use them to claim an affluent identity. However, people will also try to fake being rich, as we see with all the fake designer products. There are even companies that rent stage sets that look like the inside of a private jet so people can get their picture taken and post it on social media, pretending to be in a private plane.

Even though clothing can be changed more easily than long hair or circumcision, clothing is still a common identity marker. Among Jews we of course have kippot. And many orthodox groups have other distinctive clothing. Clothing is a very common identity marker partly because it is visible and partly because it touches your body. Because your body is "you," things that touch your body are frequently seen as being part of you.

If things that touch your body are seen as part of "you", this goes double for food that goes into your body and literally becomes who you are. That's why Judaism and many other religions use foods as identity markers. For Jews, this includes kashrut as well as holiday foods that both indicate a person's identity and help make the occasion special. Non-religious groups also use foods as identity markers such as vegans on the left or "red-meat Republicans" on the right.

Emily: What other book or projects do you have in the works?

Aaron: I've been working for several years on a project looking at the impact of loving brands on people's wellbeing. It's interesting because in general, love is great for people's wellbeing. But there is also a lot of evidence that materialism is bad for wellbeing and loving brands is connected to materialism. So it's not clear which way it will go. So far the data suggests that ... well ... things are complicated.

Emily: Thanks Aaron. I'm looking forward to the book discussion on Sunday, November 13.

All are welcome to join as Aaron Ahuvia is our featured guest at the AARC book group on Sunday, November 13 from 11:30 am–1 pm for a discussion of his book. (Contact Greg Saltzman at gsaltzman@albion.edu for more information.) ■

Calendar

October 2022

As our community eases into in-person events with sensitivity to changing pandemic safety, always check websites or call for updates before planning to attend anything listed here and for prayer services.

Saturday 1

Havdallah 7:58 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Sunday 2

Tanya – Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 11 a.m.

Teshuva Workshop: AAOM. 8 p.m.

Monday 3

Mizrahi Prose and Poetry: Meet the Authors Tehila Hakimi, Shlomi Hatuka, Amira Hess, Adi Keissar, Mati Shemuelof, Yossi Sucary. Frankel Center. Virtual Zoom Registration: https://myumi.ch/n8bxy. 12 p m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 4

Erev Yom Kippur, fasting begins 6:53 p.m.

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday 5

Yom Kippur, fast ends 7:51 p.m.

Thursday 6

Jewish Prayer: Finding Your Way into The History, Meaning, and Spirituality: TBE. Join Rabbi Whinston for an ongoing exploration of the individual prayers that constitute the majority of our worship, from Shabbat to High Holy Days. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Spirituality Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose: TBE. 12 p.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Talmud– Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 7

Candle Lighting 6:48 p.m. Ha'azinu

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Whinston: TBE. Bring your lunch and learn with Rabbi Whinston during this informal and social gathering. We explore different ideas throughout the year with participants guiding our subjects. 12 p.m.

TBE Library open: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Frist Friday Shabbat: JCS. All are invited to join the JCS on September 9 at 6:30 to welcome Shabbat. Dinner from a local restaurant follows a short observance that includes secular readings, songs, candle lighting, wine, and challah. Children are welcome. Dinner is free for JCS members. The cost of dinner for non-members is $10/person or $25/family. Registration required: www.jewishculturalsociety.org at the Jewish Community Center. 6:30 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping:

TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop!

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 8

Havdallah 7:46 p.m.

Artoberfest Fine Art Fair. Downtown

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Second Saturday Shabbat Morning Service: AARC. Service led by lay leaders at the JCC. Hybrid, in person at the JCC and Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event. 10 a.m.

Sunday 9 Erev Sukkot, begins 6:45 p.m.

Artoberfest Fine Art Fair. Downtown

Sukkah decorating: AAOM. 9:30 a.m.

Monday 10 Sukkot

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m.

Full Moon Gathering: Pardes Hannah. In person. 7 p.m.

Tuesday 11 Sukkot

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Sukkah Hop: AAOM. 4 p.m.

LGBTQ Night in the Sukkah: TBE. 7 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter - study of the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m.

Wednesday12 Sukkot

Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. About 45 minutes each of conversation and reading. Free and open to all those interested in Yiddish language, literature, and culture, no matter what level of
proficiency. For more information, to get the link, and to make certain that we are meeting on a specific day, please email Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu at least one day before scheduled meeting day every Wednesday (except major Jewish holidays). 2 p.m.

Pizza in the Hut: BIC. 6 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping: TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop! 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Thursday 13Sukkot

Jewish Prayer: Finding Your Way Into The History, Meaning, And Spirituality: TBE. Join Rabbi Whinston for an ongoing exploration of the individual prayers that constitute the majority of our worship, from Shabbat to High Holy Days. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Spirituality Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose: TBE. 12 p.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4-7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Talmud– Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 14 Sukkot

Candle Lighting 6:36 p.m. Sukkot

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Whinston: TBE. Bring your lunch and learn with Rabbi Whinston during this informal and social gathering. We explore different ideas throughout the year with participants guiding our subjects. 12 p.m.

TBE Library open: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Aura of Kabbbalat Shabbat: BIC. Join us for a monthly Musical Kabbalat Shabbat led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia in the Main Sanctuary and on Zoom. 6 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping:

TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop!

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Second Friday Schmooze: JCS. Talk on "Healthy Longevity" by Jeff Halter. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 15 Sukko Havdallah 7:35 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Shabbat Morning Services: Pardes Hannah. Zoom. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sunday 16 Sukkot

Tanya – Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 11 a.m.

Book Group: AARC. ***The Secret Book of Kings*** by Yochi Brandes. Please e-mail Greg Saltzman for more information: gsaltzman@albion.edu. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday 17 Shemini Atzeret last day of Sukkot

Tuesday 18 Simchat Torah

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Bereavement Group: TBE. For women who have lost a life partner. 4 p.m.

Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter - study of the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 19

Yidish tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday, see above. 2 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping:

TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop!

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Thursday 20

Jewish Prayer: Finding Your Way into The History, Meaning, and Spirituality: TBE. Join Rabbi Whinston for an ongoing exploration of the individual prayers that constitute the majority of our worship, from Shabbat to High Holy Days. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Women Aging With Attitude: TBE. A group approach to embracing life's transitions. 1 p.m.

Jewish and Christian Women in the Ancient Mediterranean: Frankel Center. Meredith Warren, Sara Parks, Shayna Sheinfeld. Hybrid Lecture. Henderson Room (3rd floor, Michigan League). Zoom Registration: https://umich.zoom.us/j/99282046745. 4 p.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Aging Solo Monthly Meetup: JCC. 4 to 5 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Talmud– Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 21 Candle Lighting 6:26 p.m. Bereshit

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Whinston: TBE. Bring your lunch and learn with Rabbi Whinston during this informal and social gathering. We explore different ideas throughout the year with participants guiding our subjects. 12 p.m.

TBE Library open: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping:

TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop!

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 22 Havdallah 7:35 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Sunday 23

Tanya – Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 11 a.m.

Monday 24

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 25

Rosh Hodesh Cheshvan

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Jews of Algeria in Light of Modern Studies: Major Trends and New Horizons: Frankel Center. Amina Boukail with the Jewish Muslim Research Network. Zoom Registration: https://myumi.ch/RWq4G. 1 p.m.

Rosh Chodesh Circle:. Pardes Hannah. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter - study of the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m.

Women's Rosh Hodesh Group: AAOM. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 26

Rosh Hodesh Cheshvan

Rosh Hodesh Online Minyan: Pardes Hannah. 9 a.m.

Parsha Lunch and Learn: AAOM. 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Yidish tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday, see above. 2 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping: TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop! 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Thursday 27

Jewish Prayer: Finding Your Way into The History, Meaning, and Spirituality: TBE. Join Rabbi Whinston for an ongoing exploration of the individual prayers that constitute the majority of our worship, from Shabbat to High Holy Days. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Talmud– Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 28

Candle Lighting 6:15 p.m. Noach

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Whinston: TBE. Bring your lunch and learn with Rabbi Whinston during this informal and social gathering. We explore different ideas throughout the year with participants guiding our subjects. 12 p.m.

TBE Library open: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Yelena Lembersky reads from her book, ***Like a Drop of Ink in a Downpour***. BIC. Reading and discussion during Friday evening services. 6 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping:

TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop!

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat: AARC. Hybrid in person at the JCC and Zoom. Lay led. Link will be sent out the week before the event. 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 29

Havdallah 7:15 p.m. **Torah Study: TBE**. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Serenity Shabbat: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Sunday 30

Tanya – Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 11 a.m.

Limmud Michigan. Wayne State. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Monday 31

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m. ■

Hazon convenes Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition: What are we going to do about it?

Carly Silverman, Hazon Detroit

On September 15, in a first-of-its-kind mobilization, 20 major Jewish organizations announced the formation of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, which will bring together Jewish community leaders and organizations who recognize the existential threat and moral urgency of climate change and commit to taking action.

A thousand community members attended the 2022 Jewish Food Festival to explore, engage, and affirm our Jewish responsibility to steward the earth. Inside the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center, there were workshops facilitated by a diverse lineup of Jewish food experts and leaders from within the community with focuses ranging from dairy preservation to traditional Jewish sweets.

Hazon, the leading Jewish environmental organization, is convening the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition in partnership with its 20 founding signatories. All Coalition members will develop and release Climate Action Plans annually, detailing climate actions taken to date and setting strategic goals for the coming year, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a variety of strategies and interventions, as well as multiplying impact in the areas of education, advocacy, and finance. Coalition members will receive support through peer networks and one-on-one consultation, and will be eligible for funding in the form of interest-free loans and matching grants through Hazon's new Jewish Climate Action Fund.

To date, 20 national and international Jewish organizations have signed onto the Coalition Founding Statement, publicly articulating broad consensus that collective climate action is necessary and that the Jewish community is responding. The founding partners (listed below) represent networks connecting the vast majority of North American Jewish institutions and with collective reach of hundreds of thousands of Jews each year.

Founding partners of the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition include:
Jewish Federations of North America
JCC Association of North America
Jewish Agency for Israel
Birthright Israel
Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform)
Foundation for Jewish Camp
Hillel International
Jewish Funders Network
Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the State of Israel
Jewish National Fund USA
JPro
Moishe House
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative)
Reconstructing Judaism (Reconstructionist)
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Union for Reform Judaism
United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism
Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox)
Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore
Hazon-Pearlstone

"It is undeniable: The climate crisis is here, wreaking havoc upon our communities, and especially those most vulnerable in our society," says Jakir Manela, Hazon CEO. "We are forming this coalition in order to firmly, collectively, and continually ask and answer the question: What are we going to do about it?"

If your organization is interested in joining the Coalition visit hazon.org/coalition to learn more and sign up. Jewish organizations everywhere are invited to join the Coalition and there is no cost to membership. ■

Halutzim of the prairies of Kherson Oblast

By Shifra Epstein

"At the end of days, all that will remain of the Russian Empire is a klayn berger mit a boymele/a small hill with a small tree" -R. Nachman in Siah Serafei Kodesh vol.3: p.108

The small farming village with the Hebrew name Sede Menucha/Field of Menucha is not a village or a kibbutz in Israel. It is one among eight farming villages founded by Russian Jews in the early 19th century in the prairies of the Kherson Oblast in what was then the western part of the Russian Empire and is today an important region of Ukraine.

As I write this article in mid-September, Kherson Oblast, a province that touches the Black Sea just north of the Crimean Peninsula and is dissected by the Dnieper River, is in the news as the region where the Russian invasion of Ukraine is being decisively repelled.

The history of the Jewish halutzim of the Prairies of Kherson and Southern Ukraine began in the early 1800s. The growing numbers of Jews living in inhumane conditions under the restricted residency Pale of Settlement forced Tzar Alexander I (1777–1825) to start looking for solutions for the exploding Jewish population of Russia.

The Tzar's idea was to move the Jews from the overcrowded, northernmost areas of the Pale of Settlement south to less populated areas in the Russian Empire, further from Russia's major cities to the area known as New Russia, the territories in southern Ukraine which were captured by the Russians from the Cossacks and the Ottomans.

To entice Jews, the Tzar also offered financial support.

In 1806, 900 families with 4,500 individuals were enrolled for land in New Russia. The majority among them were from the cities of Vitebsk and Mogilev (in what is now Belarus), where new regulations prohibited Jewish residence.

Sixty families traveled more than 1,000 km with horses and buggies to get to the prairies of Kherson. The journey was brutal and dangerous and took four to five months. On the way many people got sick and some even died. Many among them lost most of their savings. Still, many didn't give up their dreams for land of their own.

The new farmers started eight farming communities on the prairies of Kherson. Several among them were given Hebrew names. Perhaps the most famous among them was Sede Menucha and Nahar Tov/Good River," was another.

Fifty-three years later, in 1861, there were 21 Jewish farming communities in the Prairies of Kherson, with a population of approximately of 17,000.

The Jewish farmers of the Kherson prairies kept in touch with Jews in Europe, the United States, and Palestine.

Shocked by the pogroms of 1881–1882 in southern Russia, the Jewish farmers of the Kherson prairies were among the early supporters of the Zionist movement. Several among the single Jewish farmers from Kherson joined BILU, Hebrew initials of "Beit Ya'akov Lekhu ve-Nelkhah/House of Jacob, come ye and let us go," a reference to Isaiah 2:5. Several among them were part of the First Aliya to the Land of Israel.

The Jewish farmers of Kherson also joined HeHalutz, "The Pioneer" a Jewish Zionist youth movement founded in 1905. The purpose of HeHalutz was to train young people for agricultural settlement in the Land of Israel. Members of HeHalutz, often received agriculture training in the farming communities of Kherson before making aliya to Israel.

In the Soviet Union, in the 1920s and early 1930s, the Jewish farms were transformed into the Soviet collective farms (kolkhozes). From 1925 to 1938, the farmers received financial support from the Soviet Society for Settling Working Jews in the Soviet Union and from ICOR (Organization for Jewish Colonization in Russia) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The Yiddish songs and music of the Jewish kolkhozes in the Kherson prairies attracted the attention of the great Ukrainian Jewish folklorist and ethnomusicologist, Moisei Beregovsky (1892–1961). For Beregovsky, the Yiddish song of the kolkhozes were truly the expression of the Jewish proletarians in Soviet Russia.

Here is a song collected by Beregovsky from the 20-year old man taking a tractor maintenance and driving course in a kolkhoz in Kherson. The student singing about why a kolkhoz in Kherson is better than the kibbutz in Palestine. The song was translated from Yiddish to English by Lyudmila Sholokhova, the Curator of the Dorot Jewish Collection Development at the New York Public Library.

A song about the kolkhoz
As soon as the Soviet power came,
And on the Kherson fields
[It] made me a peasant
Working with plow and sheep.
Since in Kherson is of course better,
I have a problem with Palestine:
We are going to eat wheat and corn
And the Zionists will eat figs.

World War II brought an end to the legacy of 155 years of the Jewish halutzim in the Prairies of Kherson. On September 7, 1941, the Germans gathered the farmers and killed them in front of their farms. They were true halutzim who tried to survive sedition and antisemitism.

I hope that, with the current fighting in Kherson, my article will also serve as a memorial to the courageous Jewish halutzim and their farms in the Prairies of Kherson. ■

Living a life of holiness all year

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Chabad of Ann Arbor

The 10 days of teshuva (repentance) starts on Rosh Hashanah and ends on Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah begins on Sunday September 25. The 10 days of teshuva ends on Yom Kippur, Wednesday, October 5.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

There is something special about these 10 days of teshuva. To explain it, basically we can break it down into three elements: space, time, and people. Everything in this world is measured according to these limitations. When it comes to the holidays, these three themes are emphasized.

When the Jewish people gather together in the shul for the 10 days of teshuva, these three themes come together. Starting with being in a holy place — space — the shul — we have the presence of God more revealed than any other place in the world. Even though God is everywhere, the strongest revelation is in a synagogue. Everywhere else, God is concealed — but where is God revealed? — in a synagogue. That's as far as space is concerned.

As far as time is concerned, we know for certain that we have to serve and seek to be close to God, but nevertheless, the 10 days of teshuva, as we mentioned earlier, give us an extra revelation of God. As the Prophet says, "Seek God when He can be found and call Him when He is close to you to be called." — time. So, in the 10 days of teshuva, all the Jewish People get inspired and awakened and as long as they want to get close to God, they will be received with a glad heart.

The same thing is with the soul of a Jew, that there's a special awakening that takes place during the 10 days of teshuva — people. Even though all year round one can reach out to God, there is a special awakening when it comes to these 10 days of teshuva that we can get even closer to God. This is to be found in a synagogue, that's in place and when in the proper time, which is the 10 days of teshuva.

Therefore, when the Jewish People gather together in a synagogue during these 10 days of teshuva, it creates a special awakening and an opportunity and auspicious time to get awakened to study Torah and to do mitzvahs.

The purpose of this awakening that takes place during the 10 days of teshuva is not only that it should remain for those 10 days, but that the awakening should remain throughout the rest of the year. Every day of the year we should have a taste of this awakening that we had during the High Holy Days. This is the reason why, during these 10 days, we have a special awakening because the purpose of this awakening is that it should last throughout the year — it shouldn't remain an island of time and space unto itself, but rather be extended throughout the remainder of the year.

This is what our rabbis tell us in Pirke Avot (The Ethics of our Fathers) that if we do God's will, God will do our will. Meaning to say that if we submit ourselves to God during these 10 days of teshuva, then God will give us what we need throughout the year. God will not only provide for our spiritual needs, but for our physical needs as well.

This is also expressed in the prayer that the High Priest does on the day of Yom Kippur. Because on the day of Yom Kippur, we have these three aspects coming together; the holiest day of the year (time), the holiest place (the Temple), and the holiest person (The High Priest). So, all three come together on the day of Yom Kippur. What does the High Priest do on this holy day? He prays that everyone should have whatever they need — not only their spiritual needs but also their physical needs — that's in the prayer of the High Priest on the Holy Day.

This is the idea that we learn from Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and the 10 days of teshuva — to take this holiness and spread it throughout the year — so that the whole, entire year we should live a life of holiness.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a L' Shanah Tovah — to have a good year — to be inscribed in the book of Life and Health and Wealth — and that all of us should see this in a practical, down-to-earth level such that whatever excited us and inspired us during the 1[days of teshuva, we should spread out throughout the year to live an inspired and holy life. ■

Challenges and joys of aging solo

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

In the United States, Europe, and Canada, 27–28% of people over 60 live alone. That is almost twice as many as in the other 160 countries and regions studied by the Pew Research Center. Our pocket of the Western world is no exception. Here in Washtenaw County, 27.6% of people over 60 are aging solo. But numbers alone do not paint a full picture of solo agers, nor is the path to living alone during post-retirement years a linear or one-size-fits-all scenario. These figures do invite us to recognize the diversity of paths taken by individuals in this category.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County's Congregation-Based Social Worker, Rebecca Nieubuurt, has been fortunate to work with several individuals in our community who have shared their experiences of aging alone. They, and the many others she has worked with over her years in social work, have helped her understand the importance of this topic and the benefit of involving multiple voices in discussing the unique decision-making, challenges, and freedoms that come with aging solo. To further the conversation, JFS, in partnership with Temple Beth Emeth and Beth Israel Congregation are proud to announce "Aging Solo, a Monthly Meet-up" generously hosted at the Jewish Community Center every third Thursday from 4–5 p.m. from October–May.

All those who are "aging solo" are welcome to join for topic-driven open discussion and afternoon nosh. The open group will have opportunities to present ideas, pose questions, and provide support to one another.

Please look to templebethemeth.org or jfsannarbor.org/transforming-aging for further details and updates. ■

Continued from page 9

echoed the university's spin that EMU-AAUP was being unreasonable, that the faculty had

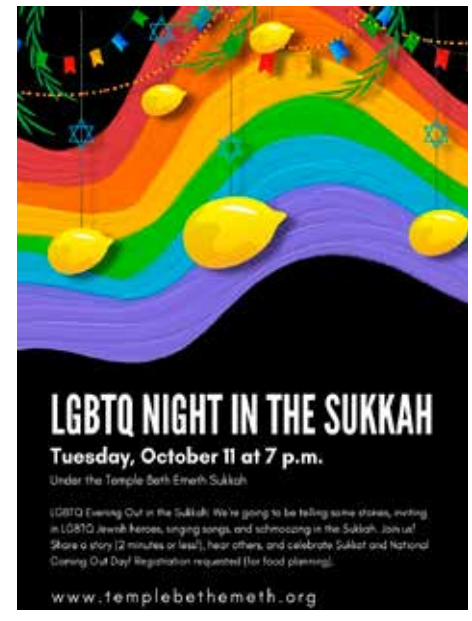
chosen to "walk out" on students, and that the strike was "illegal."

The strike shone a bright light on the administration and generated broad support for EMU-AAUP, but it did not immediately alter the administration's behavior or positions. Instead of negotiating in earnest to reach an agreement, the university sought an injunction in Washtenaw County Circuit Court to end the strike, along with a temporary restraining order to compel the faculty to return immediately to the classroom.

The turning point came late in the day September 8 when Judge Carol Kuhnke denied the motion for a temporary restraining order and set a hearing to consider the injunction for September 16. Facing the likelihood that the strike would continue for at least another week, if not longer, the administration's negotiating team finally moved. It substantially modified its positions on salary and health care and considered some EMU-AAUP proposals that it had previously dismissed or ignored. Marathon sessions produced a tentative agreement late in the evening of September 11. On September 16, the EMU-AAUP Bargaining Council voted unanimously to recommend ratification to the membership. The ratification vote is scheduled for September 20-23.

The tentative agreement contains significant salary increases, moderate increases in heath care premiums, and improvements in working conditions. All faculty will receive a 4% or $4,000 increase to base salary, whichever is greater, this academic year, and increases of 3.25% in 2023 and 2024. In 2025, the parties will return to the table to negotiate salary, allowing the union to pursue a raise that reflects inflation at that time. The drastic increases to health care premiums that the administration had insisted on were dropped. Some health care premiums will increase, depending on the plan, but faculty members will have the same health care options as administrators, including a zero-cost HMO option which will save families thousands of dollars. Several union proposals on workload and evaluation were incorporated in their entirety into the contract. Equity was also advanced, most notably by expanding EMU's anti-discrimination statement to include height, weight, gender identity or expression, and disability or genetic information. A salary equity study will be conducted to identify any inequity in the compensation of people of color, women, and other historically marginalized groups. Shared governance will be enhanced by a requirement that the university share more information about decisions with the Faculty Senate. As in all negotiations, not all hopes were realized, but overall, genuine progress was made. By enhancing economic security and faculty working conditions, the new agreement will make EMU more competitive in hiring and retaining excellent faculty, thus ensuring that students receive a high-quality education.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the agreement is that it was won through collective action. In the strike, a new generation learned how to organize and resist unfair treatment. Bonds between the faculty members, students, working people, and members of the community were forged, and alliances with other unions were strengthened. Empowered, the EMU faculty will continue to fight for rights and stand for justice within the university and



Obituaries

Allen S. Ehrlich, PhD of Ann Arbor passed away on Friday, August 19, 2022. Born in 1936 in Cincinnati to Sam and Minnie Ehrlich, Allen attended Walnut Hills High School and the University of Cincinnati. He went on to earn a Master's degree from the University of Minnesota and a PhD in anthropology from the University of Michigan. After nearly 40 years as Professor of Anthropology and Sociology he retired from Eastern Michigan University. Allen's love for teaching and for his students culminated in his receipt of the Distinguished Professor of Teaching award in 2002.

Allen was the beloved husband of Karen Brown Ehrlich and younger brother to Fradie Ehrlich Kramer. He was an adoring uncle of Ruth (Asher) Ostrin, Dan (Judy) Mogul-Kramer, Mary (the late, Jerry) Rabinowitz, and Sam (Roberta) Kramer, and of 7 great-nieces and nephews and 8 great-great nieces and nephews.

Allen loved spending time with Karen, friends and family in Northern Michigan, listening to the music of Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan and Joan Baez, and going to movies and live music events. Allen had a quick wit, great intellect and boundless warmth. He was a true mensch.

Wilma Katz, 94, of Columbus, Ohio, formerly from West Bloomfield and Oak Park, Michigan, died on August 8, 2022. Beloved wife of the late Abe Katz. Dear mother of Beverly (Michael) Katz Kahn and Marsha (David) Katz Edison. Devoted grandmother of Seth Kahn, Bob (Megan) Kahn and Jessica (Jason Greenhut) Katz Edison and honorary grandmother to the Grey children. Devoted great-grandmother of Adam and Elijah Edison Greenhut. Cherished sister of the late Elliott Folbe and the late Miriam Kuinn. Loving daughter of the late Jennie and Sam Folbe. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and friends. Contributions in Wilma's memory may be directed to the Detroit Jewish News Foundation (https://djnfoundation.org/), Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center (https://cancer.osu.edu/locations/stefanie-spielmancomprehensive-breast-center) or to the charity of your choice.

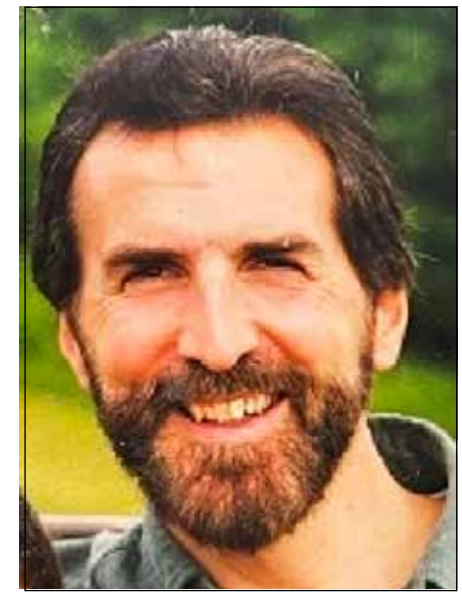
Robert Zand, formerly of Ann Arbor, MI, died on September 14, 2022 at the age of 92 in Rochester, NY. Beloved husband of 70 years to Charlene Rooth Zand. Cherished father of Martin (Ellen Ingram), Joel (Renee Ghert-Zand), and Dina (Adrian Zelazny). Loving grandfather of Adrienne Zand, Sonia Zand, Amitai Zand, Hillel Zand, Ezra Zand, Tamar Zelazny and Ariela Zelazny. Also survived by his brother Dale Zand, and many nieces and nephews. Pre-deceased by parents Morris Zand and Gussie Lassman, and his sister Ruth Fogelman.

Bob was born in Bronx NY on January 7, 1930, where he grew up. He met his wife, Charlene, when she fell into his arms on the stairs of an art museum, a love celebrated this past year with their 70th wedding anniversary. An academic biochemist and biophysicist, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Missouri, Masters of Science from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, and a PhD in Biochemistry from Brandeis University. He then settled in Ann Arbor, where he and Charlene raised a family. Bob was Professor in the Department of Biological Chemistry University of Michigan from 1962 until his retirement in 2014. His academic career spanned more than 50 years of laboratory research and teaching. His academic legacy includes numerous former students and fellows.

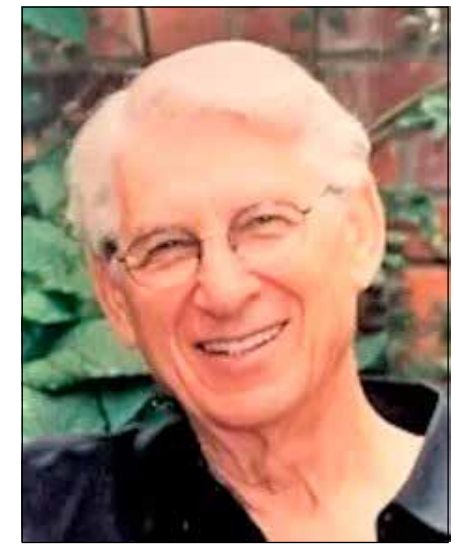
While he took pride in his academic career and associated contributions, Bob's greatest skill was that of a storyteller. Every story, whether an anecdote from his training, a recollection from his childhood or a favorite food from a previous travel experience was shared with a warm smile and accompanied by a twinkle in his eye. Bob's world-wide academic collaborations and friendships led he and Charlene to travel extensively in Europe, Scandinavia, Canada, the former Soviet Union, Israel, and South America. He loved to laugh at his own jokes. His family was his greatest joy, particularly his grandchildren with whom he shared his largest grins and, if they were lucky, part of his dessert. He will be missed by all.

The family would like to thank the staff of Cottage 2, Home 1 at the Jewish Home of Rochester for their loving care. Donations may be made in Bob's memory to Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor Michigan (https://www.bethisrael-aa.org), or the Bronx High School of Science Alumni Labs Fund (https://giving.bxscience.edu/donation.

Thomas Mendel, 68, of East Lansing, Michigan, died on September 13, 2022. Beloved husband of Ruth Mendel. Dear father of Jacob Mendel. Cherished brother of Angela Leach, Michael (Kathy) Giampetroni, and Dan (Patty) Giampetroni. Loving brother-in-law of Joanna (Rich) Friedman, Aaron (Matilde Castiel) Mendel, Matt (Dragana) Mendel, and Aliza (Peter Tierney) Mendel. Devoted son of the late Lou and the late Sue Giampetroni. Loving son-in-law Sara and the late Arthur Mendel.



Dr. Lionel Finkelstein, 95, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, died on August 21, 2022. Beloved husband of 70 years of the late Florence Sachs Finkelstein. Cherished father of James (Elnora Austell) Finkelstein, Martha (Dr. Eric) Young, Amy (Andrew) Dick, and the late Dr. Judith Kashtan. Dear father-in-law of Dr. Clifford Kashtan. Proud grandfather of Aaron, Paula, and Sarah Kashtan, Ian, Alexander, and Olivia Finkelstein, Rebecca (Ben) Krakauer, Julia (Alex Smelson) Young, Samuel (Stephanie Bellissimo) Young, and Rachel, Bridget, and Penelope Dick. Adoring great-grandfather of Toby and Phoebe Krakauer. Loving brother of the late Lillian Gold and the late Sylvia Chover. Dear brother-in-law of Helen Glick. Also survived by his special friend, Pam Opperer, his devoted caregivers, Pam Brown and Dominique Peters, and many loving relatives, colleagues, and a world of friends. ■



Phone numbers, websites and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

*Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM): 1429 Hill Street, **248-408-3269, annarborminyan.org***

*Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, **734.445.1910, aarecon.org***

*Beth Israel Congregation (BIC): 2000 Washtenaw Ave, 734-665-9897, **bethisrael-aa.org***

Chabad House: 715 Hill Street, 734-995-3276, jewmich.com

Frankel Center: 202 S. Thayer St., lsa.umich.edu/judaic/

Jewish Community Center (JCC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 745-971-0990, jccannarbor.org

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-975-9872, jewishculturalsociety.org

Jewish Family Services (JFS): 2245 South State Street, 734-769-0209, jfsannarbor.org

Jewish Federation: 2939 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-677-0100, jewishannarbor.org

Pardes Hannah: 2010 Washtenaw Ave,

Simchas and Sorrows

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends condolences to:

Beverly (Michael) Kahn on the death of her mother Wilma Katz, August 8.
Martha Young on the death of her father, Dr. Lionel Finkelstein, August 21.
Charlene Zand on the death of her husband Robert Zand.
Karen Ehrlich on the death of her husband, Allen Ehrlich.
The family of Thomas Mendel.

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends mazel tovs to:

Cheryl and Mark Good on the birth of their granddaughter, Eleanor Leigh, daughter of Alan and Hannah Good and great granddaughter of the late Phyllis and Leslie Werbel.

Kenneth and Jane Lieberthal on the marriage of their son, Geoffrey Lieberthal, and Sasha Cohen who were married on September 16 in Aspen, CO.

GRAND RE-OPENING
UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

5151
PLYMOUTH
ROAD
IN DIXBORO

MOON WINKS
CAFÉ

BUILDING
COMMUNITY
ONE SIP AT A
TIME, JOIN US!

COFFEE, BREAKFAST BAGELS, PASTRIES, SOUP, SALADS,
SANDWICHES, CHEESECAKE, ICE CREAM, MILK SHAKES, MALTS,
VEGAN AND GLUTEN FREE ITEMS!

NEW HOURS
TUE - FRI
6AM - 6PM,
SAT 8AM-4PM
SUN 8AM-4PM

VENDORS

HYPERION
COFFEE Co

Guernsey
FARMS DAIRY

$5.00 off
Any $25 Purchase

Suzie's
Cookies

EK'S CHEESECAKES

A comedy by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten

Performance Dates November 10 -19, 2022

At the Riverside Arts Center · 76 N. Huron Street · Ypsilanti, Michigan

All shows at 8 PM except Matinees at 2 PM, Sunday Nov. 13, and Wednesday Nov. 16
Adults/general admission: $18 • Students, seniors and active millitary: $12 Thursdays are Pay-As-You-Can

PTD PRODUCTIONS
Ypsilanti Theatre at its Best

Audience members must wear masks and show proof of vaccinations including eligible boosters

734-483-7345 · www.ptdproductions.com

Zemyck

Free Shipping
www.etsy.com/shop/zemyck

19960 Sharon Valley Rd.
MANCHESTER

734-428-8836
800-219-2100

RDK

R.D. Kleinschmidt, Inc.

We Build Our Reputation Around our Home
Serving You Since 1972

ROOFING - SIDING - GUTTERS

• Shingles & Flat Roofs
• Siding & Trim
• Seamless Aluminum Gutters
• Replacement Windows

Sharon Kleinschmidt
Richard Kennedy, owners

Have you heard?

Ahead of the Curve *is now*

Senior Resource
CONNECT

We're changing our name to better serve you.

*Our name has changed, but our **vision**, **values**, and **dedication to** the **community** have not.*

Senior Resource Connect will help you:

Identify. Assess. Connect.

- Searchable senior resource directory with over 500 local resources.
- Learn how to support your aging relatives, neighbors, and customers.
- Not sure where to start? Take our resource quiz.

Senior Resource
CONNECT

SCAN ME

Do your part to make Washtenaw County a more aging-friendly community by visiting our new website!

SeniorResourceConnectMI.org

Or call us at (734) 971-9781 (opt. 8).

Senior Resource Connect is a program of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County.

JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER ANN ARBOR

LIFE & LEGACY
Assuring JEWISH TOMORROWS

Thank you!

WE RECOGNIZE THE GREATER ANN ARBOR L'DOR V'DOR CIRCLE, WHO HAVE COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE OF THE GREATER ANN ARBOR JEWISH COMMUNITY WITH A LEGACY GIFT TO ONE OR MORE OF THE 11 PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

LISTING AS OF AUGUST 31, 2022

Joelle Abramowitz
Ellen and David (z"l) Abramson
Dr. Jeremy & Rabbi Sara Adler
Carol & Herb Amster (z"l)
Rav Jared & Sarit Anstandig
Harlene (z"l) & Henry Appelman
Levana & Stephen Aronson
Brad & Robin Axelrod
Richard & Deborah Ball
Bernie & Barb Banet
Ruth Bardenstein & Jim Roll
Laurie & Jeff Barnett
Dr. Adam & Tali Baruch
Leslie Bash
Irene Bayer
Yehuda Benet
Linda Bennett & Robert Bagramian
Mark & Fran Lewy Berg
Allison Berman
Lisa & Jeffrey Bernstein
Jesse Bernstein
Marc Bernstein & Jennifer Lewis
Jack Billi & Sheryl Hirsch
Fraya Hirschberg Black
Corry Buckwalter
Charles & Irene Butter
Stacy & Michael Carroll
Harriet & Gary Charson
Marjorie & Barry Checkoway
Ronald & Stephanie Chervin
Joshua & Marla Chinsky
Carl Cohen
Deborah Keller-Cohen & Evan Cohen
Judy & Malcolm Cohen
Roger & Midge Cone
Arnold & Susan Coran
Elliot & Debbie Cosgrove
Alan & Bette Cotzin
Marc & Wendy Dabrusin
Mark Daskin & Babette Levy Daskin
Amy & Mike Davidoff
Rabbi Robert & Ellen Dobrusin
Moshe Dubov
Beulah Elving (z"l)
Judith E. & Todd M. Endelman
Ann S. Epstein
Lou (z"l) & Happy Feigelson
Sidney & Jean Fine (z"l)
Carol Finerman (z"l)
Annette Frank Fisch
Susan R. Fisher
Rabbi Marc Israel & Abbey Frank
Eileen & Gary Freed
Sen. Judith & Samuel (z"l) Freedman
Martha Ann Freedman (z"l)
Ruth P. Freedman
Judith & Paul Freedman
Aaron Fried and Dahlia Weinman
Mike & Liz Fried
James & Trina Fuller
Sylvia Funk
Ilana & Ari Gafni
Gregory & Osnat Gafni-Pappas
Julie Gales
Marilyn Gallatin (z"l)
Enid Galler
Charles Garvin
Rita & Charles (z"l) Gelman
Florence & Marvin Gerber
Steve & Joyce Gerber
Art Gershowitz and Barb Mazie
Evan Gerstein
Nanette Gill
Terri Ginsburg & Jeffrey Spoon
Zvi & Marlene (z"l) Gitelman
David & Susan Lockett Gitterman
Dr. Mark Goldfarb
Ed & Mona Goldman
Richard Goldszer
Peter & Hanna Goodstein
Alexander Gotz (z"l)
Stephen Grand (z"l)
Shelley & Robert Greebel
Karra Greenberg & Joshua Pincus
Toni Greenberg & Family
Jayson & Laurie Greenberg
Susan & Barry Gross
Iosif Guberman
Daryl & Monroe (z"l) Hafter
Jeff Halter & Ellen Halter
Steven & Joyce Hamel
Hillary (z"l) & Ken Handwerger
Margaret & David Hannon
Susan Harris (z"l)
Bobbi & David Heilveil
Phyllis & David Herzig
Samuel Hirsch & Marti Walsh
Carol & Gideon Hoffer
Cindee J. Howard
Jill Hunsberger
Eileen & Saul Hymans
Reuvain Israel
Jacob Itkin
Leslie H. Kamil
Matt Kaplan & Caroline Helton
Ralph Katz & Deborah Scott Katz
Igor & Angela Keselman
Marc L. Kessler
Beth Kirschner
Steve & Shira Klein
Mark Kolins and Maria Abrahamsen
Jeremy & Marie-Adele Kress
Philip & Syma Kroll
Jessica 'Decky' Alexander & Bruce Kutinsky
Cantor Regina & Mr. Avishay Hayut
Pamela & Stephen Landau
Wendy & Ted Lawrence
Judie & Jerry Lax
Steven Leber & Dina Shtull
Evan Caminker & Stacey Lee
Donald & Julia Levitt
Alan Levy and Susan Pollans
Carolyn Lichter
Carolyn & Paul Lichter
Evie S. Lichter
Evie & Allen Lichter
Arthur & Karen Lindenberg
Robin & Rod Little
Ellen & Phillip Lorang
Beth & Jonathan Lowe
Joan Lowenstein & Jonathan Trobe
Marty & Kathy Ludington
Donna & Michael Maddin
Nancy & Phil (z"l) Margolis
Betsy Yvonne Mark
Jack & Cathy Marshall
Irwin and Fran Martin
Ed Stein & Pat McCune
Steve Merritt
Paul Metler
Tamara Meyerovich
Randy Milgrom
Newell & Myrna (z"l) Miller
Doug Mirell
Douglas Moffat
Bruce & Gayle Moyer
Hillary Murt & Bruce Friedman
Barry Nemon & Barbara Stark-Nemon
Sharon & Chuck Newman
Brian Norton & Stephanie Schechner
Marylen S. Oberman, Ph.D.
Martha Oleinick
Stephen & Elizabeth Palms
William & JoAnn Parcus
Vicki Patraka
Donald C. & Edith B. Peltz (z"l)
Karra Greenberg & Joshua Pincus
Joshua Pokempner & Gretchen Gardner
Robin & Joe Pollak
Mali Resnik
Reytsman
Steve & Kathy Rhodes
Dr. & Mrs. Shmuel Rohde
Cantor Annie Rose
Howard M. Rosen
Drs. Monica & Ben Rosen
Andrew & Marci Rosenberg
Jennifer & Eric Rosenberg
Prue & Ami (z"l) Rosenthal
Howard & Lisa Saulles
Robert & Kathleen Savit
Brian & Margot Schapiro
Skip and Lynn Schrayer
Dvora Schulman
Art & Mary Schuman
David Schuman
Dr. Jason M. Schwalb & Dr. Samantha K. Hendren
Diane & Larry Seegull in memory of Ezra Seegull ('22) (z"l)
Susan Sefansky & David Goldstein
Debra Chopp & Gil Seinfeld
Ronnie L. Shapiro
Martin B. & Maryann T. Shichtman
Rhonda & Stuart Simon
Elaine & Bob Sims
Brandy Sinco
Susan & Larry Slabotsky
Carol Smokler
Arthur & Elizabeth Solomon
Shmuel Solovyev
Tamar Springer and Steve Stancroff
Michelle Stern-Samberg & Warren Samberg
Dave & Tara Stone
Bob Stone
Joshua & Marci Sukenic
Larry & Roberta Tankanow
Eva E. Taylor (z"l)
Harriet Bakalar & Ed Tobes
Ilene & Norman Tyler
Fredda Unangst
Diane K. & Amiram Vinokur
Cady Vishniac
Rachel & Logan Wall
Laura A. Wallace
Avi Wasserman
Marshall Weinberg
Martha Weintraub and Peter Smith
Elise I. Weisbach
H & L Weisberg (z"l)
Zelma H. Weisfeld (z"l)
Rabbi Josh & Sarah Whinston
Donna Winkelman
Diane and Howard Wohl
Alon Yaffe & Lisa Inoue
Sue Rauschl & Elaine Yeglic
Martha & Eric Young
David Zimet
Bob Zucker & Kris Freeark
Anonymous

HEBREW DAY SCHOOL OF ANN ARBOR
CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor
JFS Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County
Jewish Federation OF GREATER ANN ARBOR
HILLEL UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Temple Beth Emeth

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN JEWISH LEGACY, CONTACT THE ANN ARBOR LIFE & LEGACY MANAGER OSNAT GAFNI-PAPPAS AT OSNAT@JEWISHANNARBOR.ORG OR (734) 773-3538.